

BIODIVERSITY REPORT

in respect of
Wildlife Pond

at
Pondok
Wrabness Road
Ramsey
CO12 5NE

Prepared by

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March 2024

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 This Biodiversity Report has been prepared by FWAG East Consultancy Ltd in support of a full planning application for the construction of one wildlife pond in a residential garden at Pondok, Wrabness Road, Ramsey, Essex on behalf of the applicant Ms Jan Truscott.
- 1.2 The sole aim of the development is to create new wildlife habitat suitable to support great crested newts (*Triturus cristatus*) but will also benefit other wildlife.
- 1.3 This proposed development is part of a larger, county-wide landscape-scale project (District Level Licensing) being delivered by the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) East in partnership with Natural England. The aim of the project is to create and restore ponds across Essex to be suitable to support great crested newts, a priority species in decline across the UK and Europe.
- 1.4 The aim of this Biodiversity Report is to:
 - i) identify the presence, or potential presence, of any protected or priority species or habitats on, or in the vicinity of the site; and
 - ii) assess the potential impact of the proposed development on any protected or priority species or habitats; and
 - iii) recommend any necessary mitigation measures.
- 1.5 In this report, protected species are taken to be those which are protected under European Legislation (Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, as amended) and UK legislation (Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981; [REDACTED]). Priority species and habitats are those listed under Section 41 of the NERC Act (2006).
- 1.6 This report should be considered in conjunction with the Planning Statement supplied as part of this planning application.

2 Application site

- 2.1 The application site is located approximately 1.3 kilometres (km) east and 1.8km north-west of the settlements of Wrabness and Ramsey respectively. The site is identified on the Location Plan provided in Appendix 1. Photographs showing views of the site location are provided in Appendix 2.
- 2.2 The site is located within a small grassland field comprising part of a residential garden and totals approximately 0.1 hectares (ha) in area. The field containing the application site is relatively level with no major slopes or level changes and is bordered to the north, east and west by agricultural land and residential garden to the south.
- 2.3 There are no mature trees or hedges within the application site.

- 2.4 The site is located within a strategically targeted area identified by Natural England as having high potential for facilitating the geographic expansion of local great crested newt populations.
- 2.5 The landscape surrounding the site is a mixture of farmland (consisting of arable land and grassland) with woodland in the nearby landscape. The settlements of Wrabness and Ramsey are located within 2km, to the west and south-east respectively. The Stour Estuary and its associated coastal habitats are located approximately 0.5km north of the application site. At least two other ponds exist within 500 metres (m) of the application site with no major barriers to dispersal (e.g. major roads, watercourses), in addition to agricultural ditches.
- 2.6 There are no Rights of Way across or immediately adjacent to the application site. The nearest Public Footpath is located approximately 230m west (Ramsey 28).
- 2.7 The site does not lie within the Green Belt, and is not situated within any Landscape or Environmental Designation areas. The site is covered by the Essex Biodiversity Action Plan.

3 Proposed development

- 3.1 One pond will be created in a grassland field. The location and dimensions of the pond will be as follows:

Pond name	Grid reference	Surface area (sqm)	Maximum central depth (m)
Pondok	TM 19597 31265	285	1.3

Please see the Location and Site Plans provided in Appendices 1 and 3 respectively.

- 3.2 The pond will be filled naturally by groundwater and rainwater and will remain isolated from ditches and land drains. In this way, the water quality of the pond can be more easily controlled, and the potential for pollutants and invasive species to cause harm is minimised.
- 3.3 In order to maximise the wildlife value of this development, the pond will be relatively shallow, with a maximum central depth of 1.3m, but with a variety of depths across the pond basin and shallower areas (0 – 0.3m) available at the margins. Appendix 4 provides depth profile drawings.
- 3.4 The bank gradients will be gently sloping (between 1:10 – 1:20), so as to facilitate wildlife access to the water and create a wide drawdown zone (valuable to wildlife and a natural germination area for wetland plants).
- 3.5 The pond will have an irregular shape so as to maximise the amount of marginal and bankside habitat available to wildlife.
- 3.6 All soil resulting from the pond excavation works will remain onsite; some of this soil will be used to create a terrestrial habitat bank constructed of poor-quality subsoil and left to naturally vegetate over, providing a good opportunity for wildflowers to establish, supporting pollinators and other

invertebrates. As per Natural England advice, this bank will be constructed at least 1.5m high and will slump naturally over time. The southern face of the bank will also be warmed by the sun, and so be popular with a broad range of invertebrates and potentially reptiles. The remainder of the soil will be spread thinly on semi-improved grassland around the new pond and left to naturally regenerate with native vegetation into rough, tussocky grassland. This “pond buffer zone” will provide suitable sheltering and foraging habitat for great crested newts and other wildlife, including other amphibians, reptiles, pollinators and other invertebrates, small mammals and birds.

- 3.7 The banks of the pond will also be left to naturally regenerate with plant species, in this way encouraging native varieties of local provenance.
- 3.8 No aquatic vegetation will be introduced into the new pond; instead, plants will be allowed to colonise naturally. This avoids any non-native species being introduced and encourages native varieties of local provenance.
- 3.9 No animal species of any kind will be introduced into the pond; again, this avoids the potential for non-native species or fish (which would be detrimental to any future newt population) to be introduced. Instead, native animal species will be allowed to colonise the pond naturally.
- 3.10 All work carried out under this project is covered by a great crested newt licence granted by Natural England.

4 Long-term management

- 4.1 FWAG East will be monitoring the pond and surrounding habitat over a 25-year period and will provide the landowner with management advice throughout that time period to ensure the biodiversity value of the area is maximised and retained.

Pond

- 4.2 The pond will be managed in the long-term to ensure that the biodiversity value is maximised and, as mentioned above, FWAG East will advise the landowner on how best to achieve this.
- 4.3 The south and west banks of the pond will be kept clear of scrub and mature trees; this will ensure that sufficient sunlight reaches the pond surface which will allow aquatic vegetation to establish, providing cover for pond wildlife. If scrub develops on the north and/or east banks, some of it will be retained to provide nesting and foraging habitat for wildlife including birds and pollinators.
- 4.4 If any invasive non-native plant or animal species arrive in the pond, attempts will be made to control and remove them before harm to native wildlife occurs.

Grassland

- 4.5 The land surrounding the pond will also be managed to provide maximum benefit to wildlife. A buffer zone of rough, tussocky grass at least 3m wide will be allowed to develop around the pond

to provide additional habitat for great crested newts and other wildlife. The buffer zone will be cut to control scrubby growth dominating, if necessary.

Habitat bank

- 4.6 Once constructed, the terrestrial habitat bank will not be disturbed through regular management activities. It may be cut to prevent shrubby growth dominating, if necessary.

5 Methods

Desk study

- 5.1 A 2km radius search for statutory designated sites was carried out using the MAGIC Map application, a government mapping tool.
- 5.2 The Essex Field Club was consulted for great crested newt records within a 1km radius of the application site.

Field Survey

- 5.3 Two surveys examining the biodiversity interest of the site were carried out: the first on 1st December 2023 by Lucy Jenkins of FWAG East Consultancy Ltd and Mark Nowers of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB); the second survey was carried out by Lucy Jenkins of FWAG East Consultancy Ltd on 7th March 2024. During the December survey, the temperature was 4°C, and the conditions were dry and sunny. During the March survey, the temperature was 8°C and the conditions were dry and sunny.
- 5.4 The site was assessed for the presence of valuable and priority habitats, and signs and evidence of protected and priority species.

6 Results and Discussion

Limitations

- 6.1 The desk study used available records and historical data from the local area. The data are used as a general guide to supplement the site visit and field survey. Availability of records depends on survey effort, which is variable and geographically inconsistent. Therefore, absence of records does not necessarily indicate absence of species.

Desk study

- 6.2 Five statutory nature conservation designations exist within 1km of the application site: Stour and Copperas Wood, Ramsey (Site of Special Scientific Interest [SSSI]); Stour and Orwell Estuaries (Ramsar, SSSI, Special Protection Area [SPA]); and Suffolk Coast & Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The application site is located approximately 95m west of the closest designated site (Stour and Copperas Woods, Ramsey – SSSI). A map of protected sites in relation to the application site is provided in Figure 1 on page 5.

Figure 1: Map of statutory protected sites within 1km

MAGiC

Protected Sites



Legend	
Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (England)	Special Areas of Conservation (England)
Limestone Pavement Orders (England)	Possible Special Areas of Conservation (England)
Local Nature Reserves (England)	Special Protection Areas (England)
Moorland Line (England)	Potential Special Protection Areas (England)
National Nature Reserves (England)	
National Parks (England)	
Ramsar Sites (England)	
Proposed Ramsar Sites (England)	
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (England)	

0 0.55 1.1
km

Projection = ETRS89_GEOGRAPHIC
 xmin = 1.1506
 ymin = 51.9187
 xmax = 1.2357
 ymax = 51.9594

Map produced by MAGiC on 26 March, 2024.
 Copyright resides with the data suppliers and the map must not be reproduced without their permission.
 Some information in MAGiC is a snapshot of the information that is being maintained or continually updated by the originating organisation. Please refer to the metadata for details as information may be illustrative or representative rather than definitive at this stage.

Table 1: Protected Sites: features of interest

Site name	Designation	Area (ha)	Features of interest/Reason for designation
Suffolk and Essex Coast & Heaths	AONB	443.50	The landscape comprises a unique mix of shingle beaches, cliffs, marshes, estuaries, heathlands, forests, and farmland. The area has an unspoilt and tranquil atmosphere. One of the most important wildlife areas in Britain, encompassing three National Nature Reserves, many SSSIs and Minsmere Reserve. The mudflats and creeks of the Stour, Deben, Blyth, Ore and Alde estuaries contain wildlife wetland sites of national and international importance.
Stour and Orwell Estuaries	Ramsar	3672.57	<p>A wetland of international importance comprising extensive mudflats, low cliffs, saltmarsh and small areas of vegetated shingle on the lower reaches.</p> <p>The site provides important habitats for an important assemblage of wetland birds in the non-breeding season and supports internationally important numbers of wintering and passage wildfowl and waders.</p> <p>The site also holds several nationally scarce plants and British Red Data Book invertebrates.</p>
Stour Estuary	SSSI	2247.94	<p>Nationally important site for 13 species of wintering waterfowl: grey plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>); knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>); dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>); redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>); black-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa limosa islandica</i>); great crested grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>); cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>); mute swan (<i>Cygnus olor</i>); dark-bellied brent goose (<i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>); shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>); pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>); ringed plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>); and curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>).</p> <p>Nationally important site for three bird species on autumn passage: ringed plover; dunlin; and redshank.</p> <p>The site is of national importance for its extent of coastal saltmarsh, sheltered muddy shores, two scarce marine invertebrates - the starlet sea anemone (<i>Nematostella vectensis</i>) and tentacled lagoon worm (<i>Alkmaria romijni</i>) - and its assemblage of scarce vascular plants.</p> <p>The estuary includes three nationally important geological sites which provide exposures of early Eocene sediments containing volcanic ash formations between Harwich and Wrabness. The same rocks are also important for the fossil fruits and seeds that they contain. At Stutton, much younger Pleistocene sediments have yielded an important and rich fossil vertebrate fauna.</p>
Stour and Orwell Estuaries	SPA	3672.57	The Stour Estuary has extensive mudflats due to its wide and intertidal channel. Diverse communities of saltmarsh fringe the edge of the estuary, ranging from high saltmarsh species such as sea purslane, sea aster and annual sea blite, to low saltmarsh species such as glasswort and cord-grasses. Several freshwater pools and grazing marshes fall within the SPA boundary such as Trimley and Shotley Marshes.

			<p>Breeding avocet (<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>) feed upon the intertidal mudflats and use the grazing marshes to nest during the summer. The site also supports important numbers of overwintering waterbirds which also use the mudflats extensively for feeding.</p> <p>The saltmarsh and grazing marsh provide important roosting sites, whilst some birds feed and roost on the surrounding arable land.</p> <p>The site supports a large and diverse waterbird assemblage including dark-bellied brent goose, ringed plover, grey plover, shelduck, cormorant, great-crested grebe, curlew, wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>), pintail, goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>), gadwall (<i>Anas strepera</i>), oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>), lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>), knot, dunlin, black-tailed godwit, redshank, and turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>).</p>
Stour and Copperas Woods, Ramsey	SSSI	78.17	<p>Comprises the largest area of woodland in north-east Essex.</p> <p>Ancient woodland lying on glacial sands and gravels on the southern shore of the Stour Estuary, with chestnut coppice with oak and ash standards.</p> <p>Provides the only example in the county where coastal and woodland habitats meet.</p> <p>Additional interest is provided by small seasonal pools which are colonised by skullcap (<i>Scutellaria galericulata</i>) and pendulous sedge (<i>Carex pendula</i>).</p> <p>The white admiral butterfly (<i>Limentis camilla</i>) has been recorded here.</p>

- 6.3 As mentioned, the nearest statutory nature conservation site (Stour and Copperas Wood SSSI) is located approximately 95m west of the application site. The likelihood of the proposed development having a detrimental impact on the interest of the protected site is unlikely; pools and areas of standing water are features of interest for Stour and Copperas Wood SSSI, so it is expected that the creation of one new wildlife pond on the application site will complement the existing interest of the protected site.
- 6.4 The proposed development is not expected to have an adverse impact on the Stour and Orwell Estuaries (Ramsar, SSSI, SPA); indeed, the proposed development (creation of one wildlife pond) complements the existing habitats of interest and provides valuable new habitat in the wider landscape surrounding the protected area. It is possible that the new pond may even, in time, attract species of interest from the protected site such as wigeon.
- 6.5 The proposed development is not expected to have an adverse impact on the Suffolk and Essex Coast and Heaths AONB; the protected area is described as an agricultural landscape, of which ponds in the wider countryside are very much characteristic.
- 6.6 Priority habitat types present within a 1km radius of the application site are listed in Table 2 below and shown in Figure 2 (page 9).

Table 2: Priority habitats within 1km

Habitat type	Number of sites	Total area (ha)	Approximate distance from site (nearest)
Ancient woodland	5	79.68	95m west of application site.
Deciduous woodland	7	90.02	95m west of application site.
Coastal saltmarsh	11	4.49	440m north of application site.
Reedbeds	10	2.49	445m north of application site.
Intertidal Substrate foreshore	1	approx. 50.8	465m north of application site.
Mudflats	2	184.17	500m north of application site.
Traditional orchards	1	0.04	530m south-west of application site.

Essex Field Club Data Search

6.7 No verified great crested newt records exist within a 1km radius of the application site. The nearest verified record is located approximately 1.2km south-west of the application site and dates from 2018.

Field survey

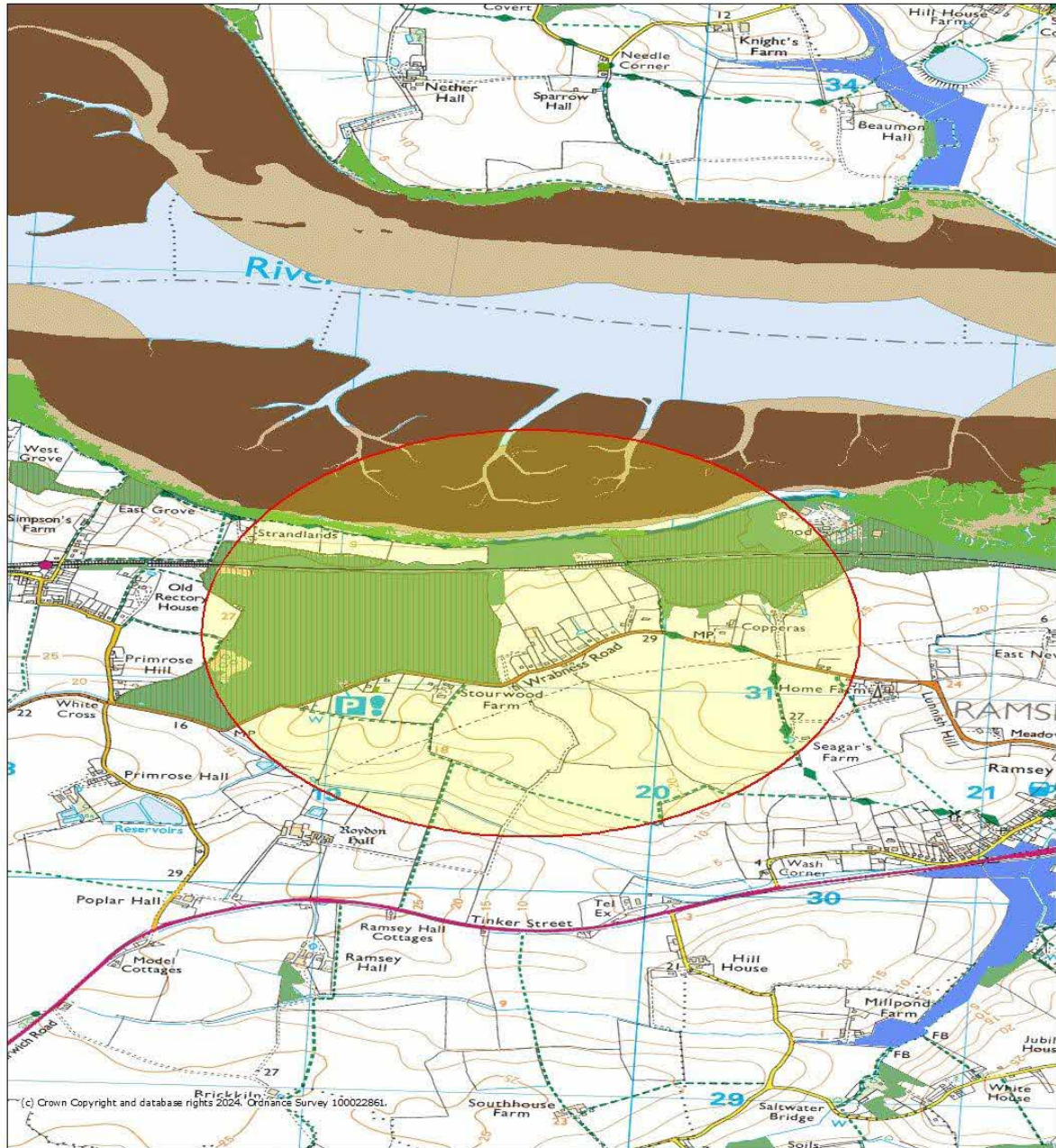
6.8 The results reported and assessed in this document represent those at the time of survey on the 1st December 2023 and 7th March 2024. Although a reasonable assessment of habitats present can be made during a couple of walkover surveys, the full range of seasonal variations is not observed. The surveys were conducted in December and early March, which is considered outside of the optimal survey season for Phase 1 habitat. All areas of the application site were accessible on the day of survey.

6.9 Appendix 5 shows a Phase 1 Habitat survey map of the application site.




Figure 2: Priority Habitat types within 1km of application site

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Priority Habitats



Please refer to the Phase 1 habitat map (Appendix 5) for locations of numbered target notes.

Target Note	Habitat description	Photos
1	<p>The application site consists of a small grassland field which comprises part of a residential garden.</p> <p>The only habitat on site is species-poor semi-improved grassland which is not considered a priority wildlife habitat. The sward is dominated by ryegrass (<i>Lolium</i> spp.) with occasional common nettle (<i>Urtica dioica</i>) and creeping buttercup (<i>Ranunculus repens</i>).</p> <p>No mature trees or hedges are present within the application site itself; the hedges and trees seen in the photographs are located outside of the application site area. The hedges and trees will be retained and left undisturbed throughout works as they provide excellent terrestrial habitat for great crested newts and other wildlife. There are no ponds, ditches, scrub, or other areas of high value or priority habitat on site.</p>	<p>View of the application site taken from the south looking north (07/03/2024):</p>  <p>View of the application site taken from the north looking south (07/03/2024):</p>  <p>View of the application site taken from the east looking west (07/03/2024):</p> 

		<p>View of the application site taken from the west looking east (07/03/2024):</p>  <p>Aerial view of the sward (taken 07/03/2024):</p> 
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Priority habitats

- 6.10 The application site consists of species-poor semi-improved grassland, which is not considered a priority wildlife habitat. As mentioned, the sward is dominated by ryegrass (*Lolium* spp.) with occasional common nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*). There are no trees, scrub, hedges, or other priority habitats or areas of high wildlife value within the application site itself.
- 6.11 One existing pond is situated in the same residential garden, approximately 130m south of the application site.
- 6.12 The works are not expected to impact upon any priority habitats. The pond works will be taking place on the application site only. The site will be accessed by vehicles via an existing residential driveway which adjoins the public highway (Wrabness Road) at approximately TM 19653 31098. Vehicles will then travel approximately 150m north using an existing hardcore access track, before travelling across species-poor semi-improved grassland for the remainder of the journey (approximately 14m). The site access can be seen on the Location Plan (provided in Appendix 1).

- 6.13 The long-term impacts of the development on priority habitats are expected to be positive. The sole aim of the development is to create a new priority habitat on the application site (ponds are a UK BAP priority habitat). The creation of one new pond on the application site will enhance and complement the wildlife interest of the adjacent and nearby habitats (semi-improved grassland, hedgerows, scrub, woodland, and coastal habitats) and will lead to a considerable net gain for biodiversity with regard to the amount of priority habitat available in the locality.

Priority species

Bats

- 6.14 No buildings, trees or hedgerows are located on site, nor will proposed development affect any existing buildings, trees or hedges, and no existing areas of priority habitat will be disturbed or lost.
- 6.15 Work will be carried out during the daylight hours, and no new external lighting is proposed as part of this development. No bat foraging, commuting or roosting habitat will be lost. As such, disturbance to bats will be limited. Therefore, the risk of any adverse impacts on bats is considered to be low.
- 6.16 The long-term impacts of the development are expected to positively impact local bat populations. The creation of one new pond will provide an important drinking water source for bats and other wildlife. The new pond, habitat bank and rough grass pond buffer habitats are also likely to increase local invertebrate populations which will provide additional food resources for bat species.

Amphibians

- 6.17 No verified great crested newt records exist within a 1km radius of the application site. The nearest verified record is located approximately 1.2km south-west of the application site and dates from 2018.
- 6.18 At least two other ponds exist within a 500m radius of the application site: one is located in the same residential garden approximately 130m south of the application site; the other is located approximately 140m east, in another residential garden. Both of these ponds will remain undisturbed during the proposed works.
- 6.19 The application site (comprising semi-improved grassland) does provide foraging habitat for amphibians which may be using the nearby off-site ponds. As such, before work on site begins, the site will be hand searched by a qualified ecologist for any great crested newts present. If found, work will be timed to occur during the great crested newt breeding season (spring – early summer). At this time, any great crested newts present (and indeed other amphibians) will be in nearby ponds, instead of in terrestrial habitats. Additionally, all contractors will be briefed on best practice guidelines before any work commences. Therefore, the likelihood of disturbing these animals during works is greatly reduced.
- 6.20 In the long term the proposed development is expected to have a substantial positive impact on local amphibian populations, particularly great crested newts. The pond itself will provide

additional, high-quality aquatic habitat in which amphibians may breed. Great crested newts particularly favour clusters of multiple ponds, and so creating additional pond habitat in the nearby vicinity of existing ponds will greatly benefit local newt populations.

- 6.21 Work under this project is covered by a great crested newt licence granted by Natural England. Works are not expected to last longer than 10 days and will be overseen by a qualified ecologist. Before on site work begins, all contractors will be made aware of best practice guidelines. All reasonable measures will be undertaken to avoid disturbance and/or harm.

Reptiles

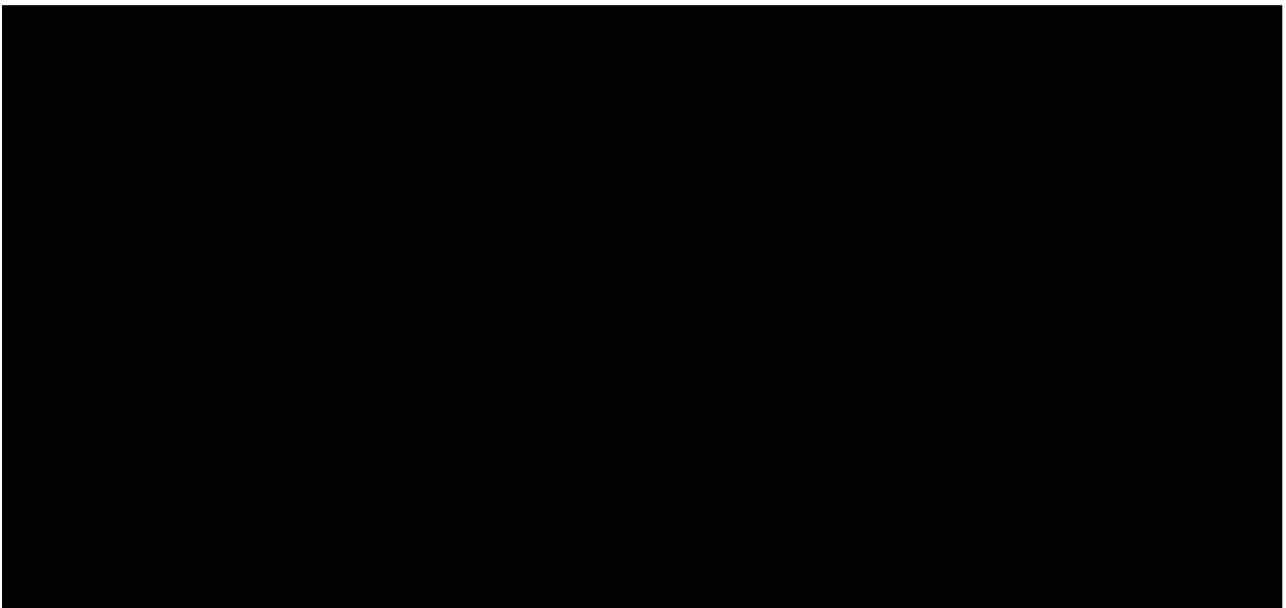
- 6.22 The application site does not provide suitable habitat for reptile species such as grass snakes, adders, slow worms, or common lizards. The diversity of habitats on the application site is low, comprising only species-poor semi-improved grassland. There are no grassy banks, hedgerows, scrub, brash, log or stone piles, or artificial refugia (e.g. corrugated iron, felts) on the application site itself.
- 6.23 However, the land surrounding the application sites is more varied, comprising hedgerows, deciduous woodland, grassland, and – 0.5km north – coastal habitats including saltmarsh, reedbeds, mudflats and the intertidal substrate foreshore. As such, in this context of nearby off-site habitat features, it is possible that reptile species may be present on the site.
- 6.24 Before works begin, the site will be searched by a qualified ecologist and if any reptiles are found, works will be delayed until after the varied reptile breeding seasons end (April – June). Works on site are not expected to last longer than 10 days. Before all on site work begins, all contractors will be made aware of best practice guidelines. All reasonable measures will be undertaken to avoid disturbance and/or harm.
- 6.25 In the long term, the development is expected to benefit reptile populations; the creation of a new pond habitat is expected to increase invertebrate and amphibian populations (a food source). Additionally, the creation of a habitat bank with a south-facing slope will especially benefit reptiles by providing suitable basking sites and adding structural diversity to the on-site habitat.

Birds

- 6.26 The application site provides suitable nesting sites for ground nesting birds. The suitability of the application site for tree/shrub nesting birds is considered unlikely due to the lack of suitable habitat on site (no trees or hedges). Scrub and trees located outside of the application site boundary will remain unaffected by the proposed work and will be retained.
- 6.27 The proposed pond and habitat bank creation on the application site will result in the loss of approximately 0.034ha of semi-improved grassland. This is not an uncommon habitat locally; approximately 14ha of agricultural grassland immediately surrounds the application site in a continuous block (not counting the application site itself or other residential gardens) in addition to deciduous woodland, mature hedgerows, and scrub. As such, it is considered unlikely that the

loss of semi-improved grassland habitat on the application site would lead to a detrimental impact on local bird populations. Indeed, it is expected that the proposed works on the application site will benefit many bird species by increasing the amount of nesting and foraging habitat in and around the pond, buffer zone and habitat bank.

- 6.28 If work begins during the bird nesting season (which runs 1st March – 31st August) the application site and surrounding area will be carefully searched for the presence of ground nesting birds before works begin and, if discovered, works will be delayed until after the nesting period is over.



Invertebrates

- 6.33 The application site and surrounding adjacent habitat provide suitable habitat for common invertebrates.
- 6.34 The proposed development is likely to have a significant positive impact on populations of local invertebrate species; the creation of one new pond habitat will provide new and diverse high-quality habitat for a range of aquatic invertebrates. This aquatic habitat will be complemented and enhanced by the creation of a habitat bank and rough grass buffer zone which will provide further habitat and foraging opportunities for many more invertebrate species including pollinators such as butterflies, hoverflies and bees, as well as beetles and spiders, among others.

Dormice

- 6.35 The presence of dormice on site is unlikely due to the lack of sufficient suitable habitat on site (e.g. coppice woodland, mature species-rich hedgerows).
- 6.36 As no hedges or woodland habitat will be disturbed or lost as part of this development, the risk of any adverse impacts on dormice is considered to be low.

Other protected or priority species

6.37 The proposed development is considered unlikely to impact on any other protected or priority species.

7 Conclusion

Application site

7.1 The long-term impact of the creation of one wildlife pond on the application site will clearly benefit biodiversity both on site and in the wider landscape.

7.2 Due to the lack of priority habitats on site, it is considered that the potential to harm any habitats or species of interest as a result of the proposed development is low.

7.3 Intended solely for wildlife conservation purposes, the pond (a UK BAP priority habitat) will provide important new aquatic habitat for great crested newts (a UK BAP priority species and European Protected Species). The new pond will also benefit a huge range of additional wildlife including aquatic and terrestrial invertebrate species, other amphibians, birds, small mammals and bats, many of which are UK BAP priority species.

7.4 No existing priority habitats or habitats of other wildlife value will be disturbed or lost as part of this development.

7.5 In addition to this, the creation of a terrestrial habitat bank will provide further sheltering, overwintering and foraging opportunities for amphibians, invertebrates, reptiles and other wildlife.

7.6 As the pond works are expected to take a maximum of 10 days to complete, the disturbance to wildlife will be kept to a minimum. Works will be carried out during the day, which will minimise disturbance to bats.

Surrounding area

7.7 The creation of one new wildlife pond will also clearly benefit the land surrounding the application site and wider landscape, increasing the diversity of habitats in the locality, as such supporting a wider range of species.

7.8 The creation of one new wildlife pond will enhance the existing network of ponds in the locality, and increase the number of suitable breeding ponds for great crested newts in the area. This in turn could lead to an increase in the population size and/or geographic expansion of the local great crested newt population, benefitting this protected species.

7.9 Overall, the proposed development will increase the amount of resources available to local wildlife, benefitting many protected and priority species, particularly great crested newts.

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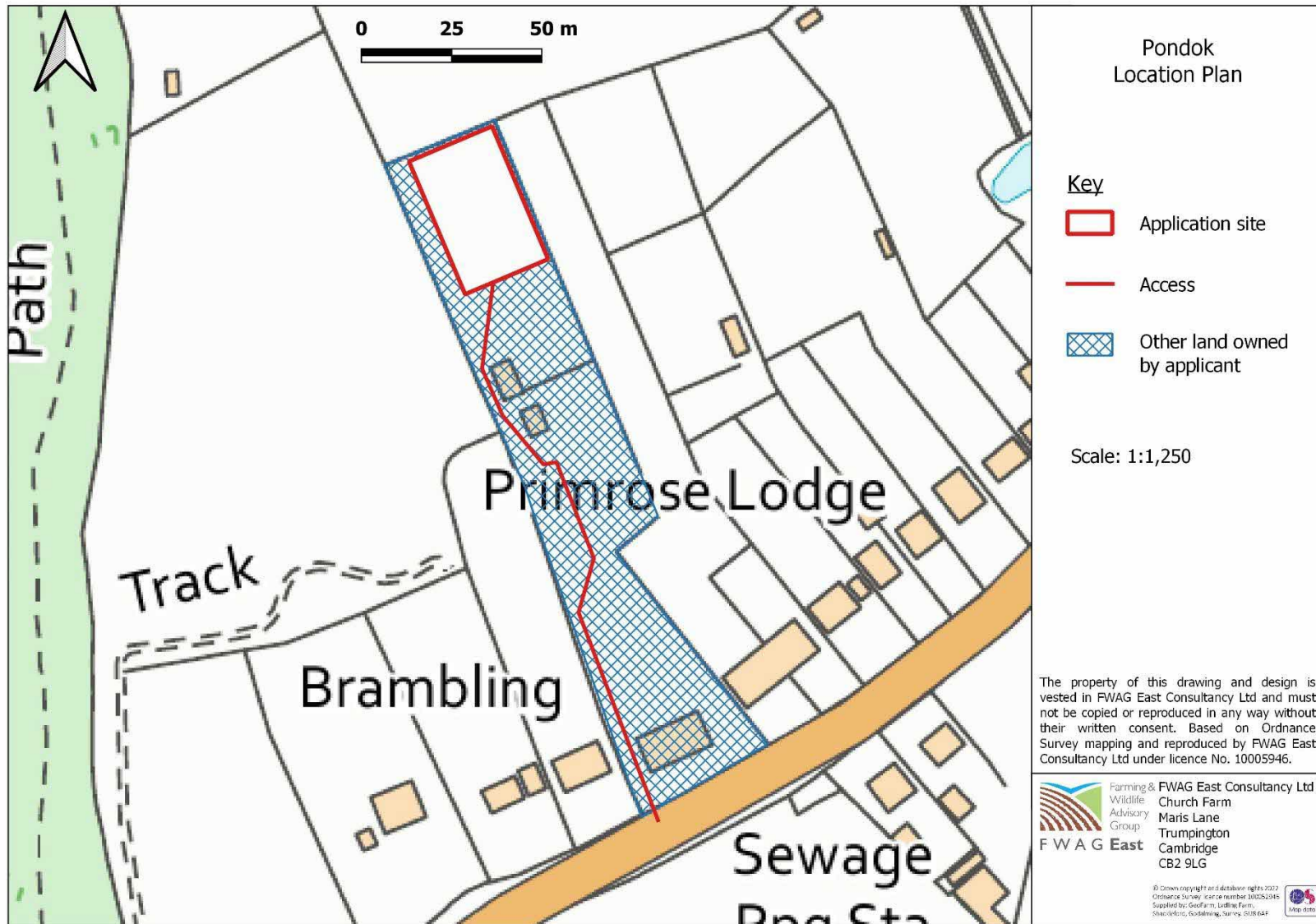
Natural England (2021) MAGIC Map. Available at: <http://magic.defra.gov.uk> (Accessed 26th March 2024).

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9.1 Appendix 1: Location Plan



9.2 Appendix 2: Photographs of site

Photo 1: View of the site taken from the south looking north (taken 07/03/2024):



Photo 2: View of the site taken from the north looking south (taken 07/03/2024):



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Photo 3: View of the site taken from the east looking west (taken 07/03/2024). The trees and hedges seen in the photo are located outside of the application site and will be retained and left undisturbed throughout works:



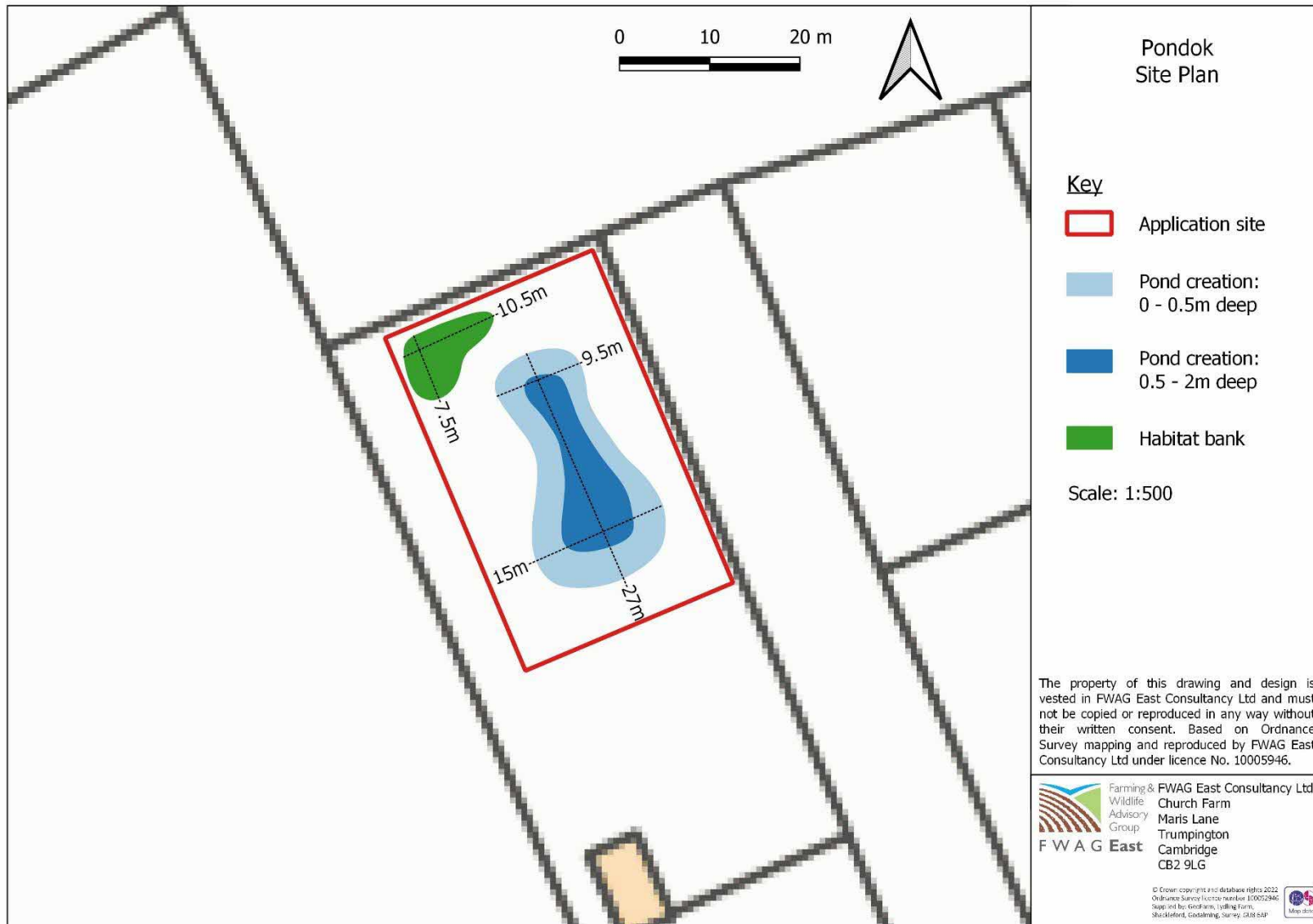
Photo 4: View of the site taken from the west looking east (taken 07/03/2024):



Photo 5: Aerial view of the sward composition (taken 07/03/2024):

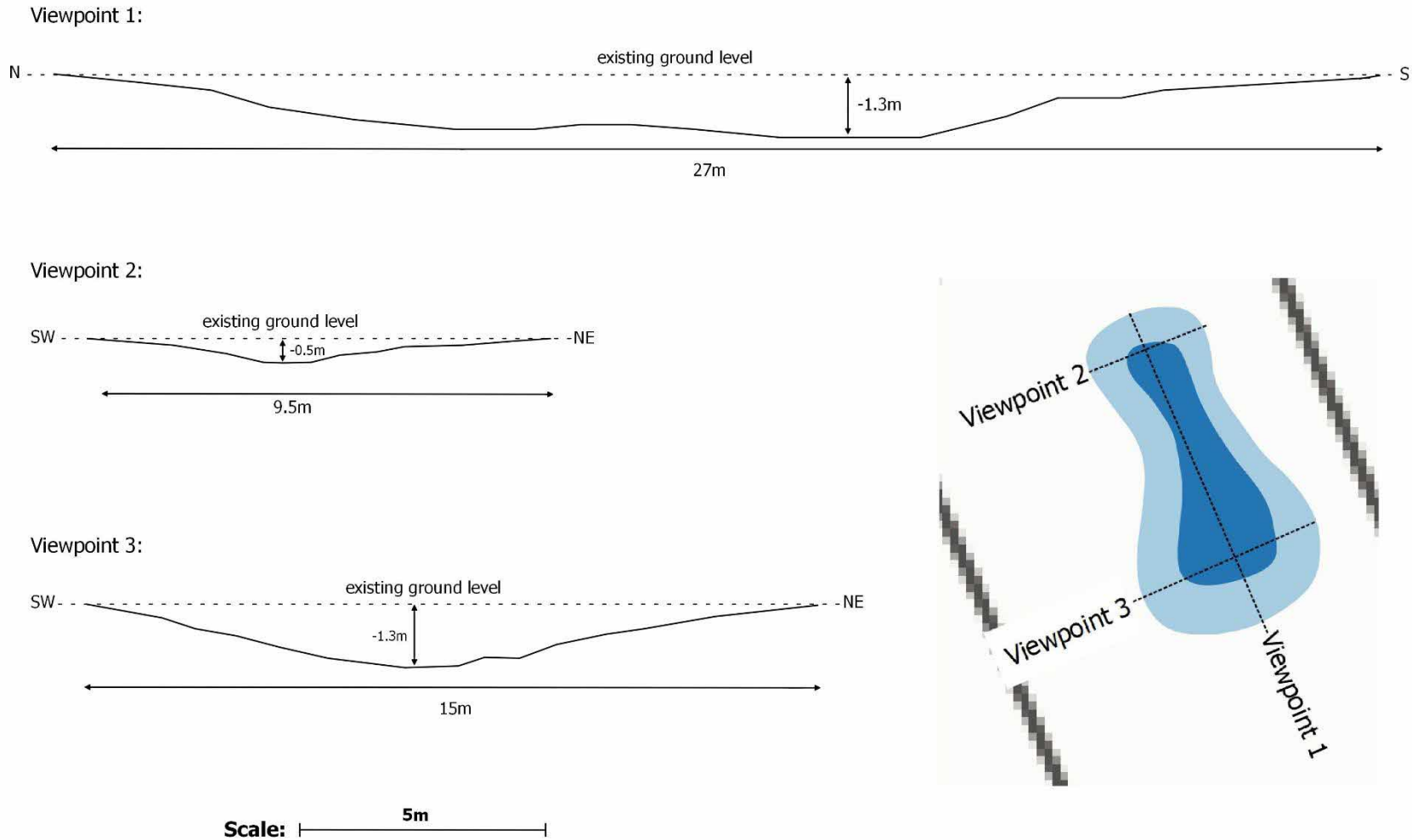


9.3 Appendix 3: Site Plan



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9.4 Appendix 4: Pond depth profiles



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9.5 Appendix 5: Phase 1 Habitat Survey map

