

# Management Plan for Splitwind Pond



## Location

Splitwind Pond is found at the intersection of Romsey Road ( A31) and the Old Lyndhurst Road / Newbridge Road. Cadnam. Post Code SO40 2NY

Land Ranger SU300141.

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Lat (WGS84)	N50:55:35
Long (WGS84)	W1:34:25

**A pond is a man-made or natural waterbody which is between 1m<sup>2</sup> and 2 hectares (this is equivalent in size to about 2.5 football pitches), which holds water for four months of the year or more.**

This plan sets out the criteria for managing the pond over a 5 year period and longer if necessary.

The prime factor determining the way the pond is managed is the known existence of Great Crested Newts. *Triturus cristatus*.

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## Description

The pond has been in existence since ancient times. It is thought to have been a watering hole for animals being moved to markets from the forest.

For a long time the pond had lain overgrown and neglected. About 10 years ago the Parish Council decided to excavate and clear overgrowth to allow the water to appear again. The pond is a seasonal one. During prolonged dry periods in the summer months the water will evaporate and the pond itself become dry. During the winter months and after significant rain the pond will fill again. The depth of the water will rarely exceed 3feet maximum. It is of a clay makeup. The base material being impervious. However any advanced overgrowth can have a damaging affect on the way the pond may retain water. Ponds can be found in gardens, towns and villages and there are many types of ponds out in the countryside on farmland, floodplains and heathlands; in woods, on grasslands and on moors.

Many ponds have been made by man. Other ponds are made by nature, for example, by meandering rivers or eroding glaciers

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## **Identifying Great Crested Newts**

The great crested newt is Britain's largest and most threatened newt. The body is generally dark brown to black in colour with a warty appearance, which gives the species its other common name, the warty newt. The underside is bright orange with black markings that are unique to each individual. Females tend to be slightly longer than males, and in the breeding season, the latter develop an obvious crest between the head and the tail, and a silver streak along the middle of the tail. The specific name *cristatus* derives from the Latin word meaning crested. Outside the breeding season, males and females are similar in appearance, but females always have an orange line on the tail. Juveniles generally look like females but may have a yellow stripe along the back.

## **Habitat**

This species inhabits a wide range of habitats, which can include farmland, woods, grasslands, dunes, quarries, industrial and 'brown-field' sites, within which it favours large ponds with abundant weeds and no fish. The habitat structure within the site such as hedgerows, varied topography and the availability of refuges in which the individuals can hide is very important and can determine whether the species can occupy a site or not. Occasionally they will use garden ponds and commonly occur near natural springs. The condition of land between occupied sites is also an important factor, as many newt populations persist as [metapopulations](#), a set of local populations within some larger area, where typically migration from one local population to at least some other patches is possible.



Traditionally, the best time of year to manage a pond is late autumn and winter.

This is when most plants and animals are either dormant or have left the pond, but for some wildlife there never is a good time, and it will have to be accepted that some disturbance will be caused. In this case, carry out work as sensitively as can be and do a little bit at a time, never removing all of one type of habitat or plant.

In many cases, it may never be necessary to carry out management of the pond or it may be deciding its value lies in the natural processes the pond goes through and only to get involved if something goes wrong, such as an invasion by a non-native plant.

**If Great Crested Newts use the pond, work should *only* be carried out during November, December or January, and a licence from Natural England, Countryside Council for Wales or Scottish Natural Heritage should be sought.**

Those people working directly on promoting the conservation of great crested newts are most likely to require a licence when undertaking surveys using techniques which involve disturbance or capture of the newts. Habitat management may require a licence and this should be discussed with the Statutory Nature Conservation Organisation (SNCO).

### **Legal Protection and Licensing**

Licences for habitat management are only required when an activity which otherwise may be an offence like disturbance is likely. So, for the majority of pond work, woodland or grassland management, no licence is required.

The great crested newt is protected under The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Section 9 of this act provides protection to species listed on Schedule 5 of the Act, which includes great crested newts. Some further amendments have been made and implemented under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (The CROW Act). This applies only to England and Wales

The Act and 1994 Regulations make it illegal to all and some of:-

- Intentionally or deliberately capture or kill, or intentionally injure great crested newts.
- Deliberately disturb or intentionally or recklessly disturb ...in a place used for shelter or protection
- Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place.
- Intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to a place used for shelter or protection.

Other known ponds that together make up a network that encourages a metapopulation. Those marked blue indicate known great crested newt sightings





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## **Vegetation**

The vegetation about the pond is made up of grasses and mostly self seeded plants, with some introduced species. Clumps of Michaelmas daisy (*Aster novi-belgii*) and bulrushes (*Typha latifolia*) dominate the edge of the pond along with salix sp; (goat willow) and other pioneer type woody plants. A clump of snowberry has established on the southern edge of the pond. Other notable plants are yellow flag iris, common flea bane and lilies of domestic sources.

*Ranunculus Lingum* – Greater spearwort

A full survey would need to be carried out to list the plants before major work is undertaken.

## **Aims**

To keep the pond free of encroachment with weed and plant growth so there may be a recognised amount of water free for biodiversity.

To keep bank vegetation cut to allow as great a diverse amount of plant species as can be with in the confines of the bankside vegetation

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Details</b>	
Grass cutting	To be carried out three times per year	May August November	Mow a 3 foot strip of highway verges, all of main triangle at road junction and other grass areas	
Clear pond vegetation	2 x in one year	October November	Pull any bulrush ( <i>Typha latifolia</i> ) growing in pond centre and northern edge. Control other plant growth within main body of pond by manual means. Hand pulling, digging out or raking. Non-native species such as Australian swamp stonecrop ( <i>Crassula helmsii</i> ), New Zealand pygmy weed and parrots feather ( <i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i> ) should be removed as much as possible and discouraged from colonising the pond.	Any pond vegetation cleared should be bagged and removed from the site to inhibit cross contamination and spreading.
Tree pruning	As and when needed	October - January	Prune back overhanging branches. Cut back limbs to allow light and prevent leaf fall into pond	
Strimming	To be carried out three times per year	August November March	Strim slope side to pond edges to height of 100mm. All of area behind pond (North side) 100mm. Taking care not to clear young tree growth and around cherry trees ( <i>Prunus avium</i> )	All cut vegetation ideally should be removed from the site or at least 5mts from pond edges for composting.
Leaf collection	Leaves cleared after leaf fall	October November December	Leaves should be collected and removed from edge and road side grass strip	