

Biodiversity statement

Pent Farm, Pilgrim's Way, Postling, Kent CT21 4EY

The 0.4 hectare corner of an arable field belonging to Pent Farm allocated for the proposed 300m² pond creation is within the Strategic Opportunity Area identified by Natural England as part of the Great Crested Newt District Level Licensing scheme. This scheme is to effectively connect and expand GCN populations impacted by high levels of development. It is aimed at increasing GCN populations and improving habitat.

Postling and the surrounding area is allocated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. No other designations have been applied. The 0.4 hectare section of the field in question (pictured below) has been left as set aside for many years and is currently a mixture of grass scrubland and wildflower margins. In this spot species such as oxeye daisy, knapweed, cut-leaf cranesbill, bristly ox-tongue, field buttercup, teasel, thistle and sorrel were seen. There are also dense hawthorn, blackthorn and elder field boundary hedgerows. Across the road (Stone Street, B2068) is a small stretch of broad-leaved woodland.



The proposed pond at approximate grid reference TR1307738807 will be of 300m² size in accordance with Natural England's criteria. The maximum depth will be up to 2m at its deepest central point with several shallow areas for vegetation growth and an ideal gradient of 1:10. The pond is left to naturalise by itself and no species are introduced. The spoil is to be spread thinly across the field once the crop rotation happens; ideally in early September time.

A public footpath runs along the south east field boundary with the sub-station. This will not be affected as works will be taking place away from this point.

Access to this area for construction is via a gate on the B2068. The digger will be tracked in across the field and will not have any impact on any species. Works will only take place once the ground conditions are suitable during September to March. This is also so there will be little or no

disturbance to breeding amphibians; however, all work should take place with a view to causing least harm to any species.

There is a possibility GCN will be present during works as previous survey data has shown this to be a 'core area' whereby they have been found in the past. The area will be searched by a trained and licenced individual immediately prior to works and any GCN will be moved from the location of the pond but not from the site.

As part of our project remit, we are obliged by Natural England to give contractors a talk regarding GCN and ensure their works minimise any damage to GCN habitat.