



## Great crested newt pond creation / restoration – initial eligibility checklist

Thank you for your interest in looking to either restore or create a pond on your land for great crested newts (GCN). To help assess initial eligibility, please complete this form in full, attach and return to [info@ywt.org.uk](mailto:info@ywt.org.uk) at your earliest convenience and one of the team will be in touch with details of next steps.

Please note the subject of your email should read "GCN pond creation / restoration opportunities – [INSERT THE NAME OF YOUR SITE HERE]" to allow us to separate out individual enquiries.

Additionally, please where possible also include a map of your landholdings with all potential ponds clearly marked.

## Considerations before applying

When we assess suitability, we look at a number of criteria some of which are listed below. You may find it helpful to consider some of these before submitting your proposal.

- The minimum and optimum size of each pond is 150m<sup>2</sup> with a central depth of 1m.
- It must be within 500m of another existing pond.
- Located as close as possible to existing, verifiable, GCN records.
- Ground conditions need to be such that the pond will hold water a minimum of one summer in every three (please note that ponds requiring liners are not normally funded).
- The location should be within 50m of suitable terrestrial habitat (taller grasses, scrub, woodland or hedgerows).
- The south side of the pond is not excessively shaded by trees or other vegetation.
- If in a grazed landscape or where disturbance could occur any ponds would need to be fenced (this can be included in the funding) by a minimum 3m buffer zone.
- The pond must be in an area not likely to be polluted by runoff.
- Chosen locality should not be liable to flood or be at risk of suffering ingress by fish or excessive use by wildfowl.
- Any area chosen must not be contaminated by invasive non-native species (e.g. Himalayan Balsam or *Crassula helmsii*).
- Any site must sit within one of our Strategic Opportunity Areas (SOAs) – NOTE that YWT will check this on your behalf on receipt of the location data requested below.
- Restorations ONLY – all ponds put forward must be in late successional stages (choked with vegetation), devoid of water or covered in a thick layer of anaerobic sediment.