

Good morning Sophie,

Thank you for consulting us on the above application, we have the following comments:

The applicant has stated that due to the suitability of some of the ponds in question (e.g. 1, 2 and 4) and due to repeated denied access to waterbodies, that there would be little benefit in requesting to revisit these ponds within the next survey season. We can appreciate that access issues have made gaining updated information difficult and that the applicant's letter has acknowledged that a lot of time has elapsed since the last surveys. However, from an objective perspective it is still the case that the condition and GCN status of the surrounding waterbodies have not been confirmed since this date, and even since 2013 in some instances. We also would not agree with the assertion that a lack of historical records in the area and a declining national GCN population can be used here to justify not undertaking up to date surveys. Ponds 3 and 5 which have been deemed most suitable are both located within 250m, and as such are within the recommended survey distance.

We do however feel it important to note that the outline permission was granted with the existing survey information only last year, and that the LPA's ecological advisors (Place Services) have recommended the discharge of condition 7 (under application **DC/26/0835**). We are of the opinion that best practice would dictate that the information is updated, however we will defer to the LPAs decision.

Best wishes,

Laura Downs (*she/her*)

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