Document CE25014A - Scheme to promote opportunities for reptile and amphibian populations through the creation of new hibernacula across the area of Pond/Wetland Creation Area at Danhill Rewilding Project

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Introduction

This document is to be used in conjunction with created by Co-Ecology . This document highlights opportunities to create hibernacula for the reptile and amphibian populations that are on site and those that will potentially be attracted by the habitat enhancements being undertaken.

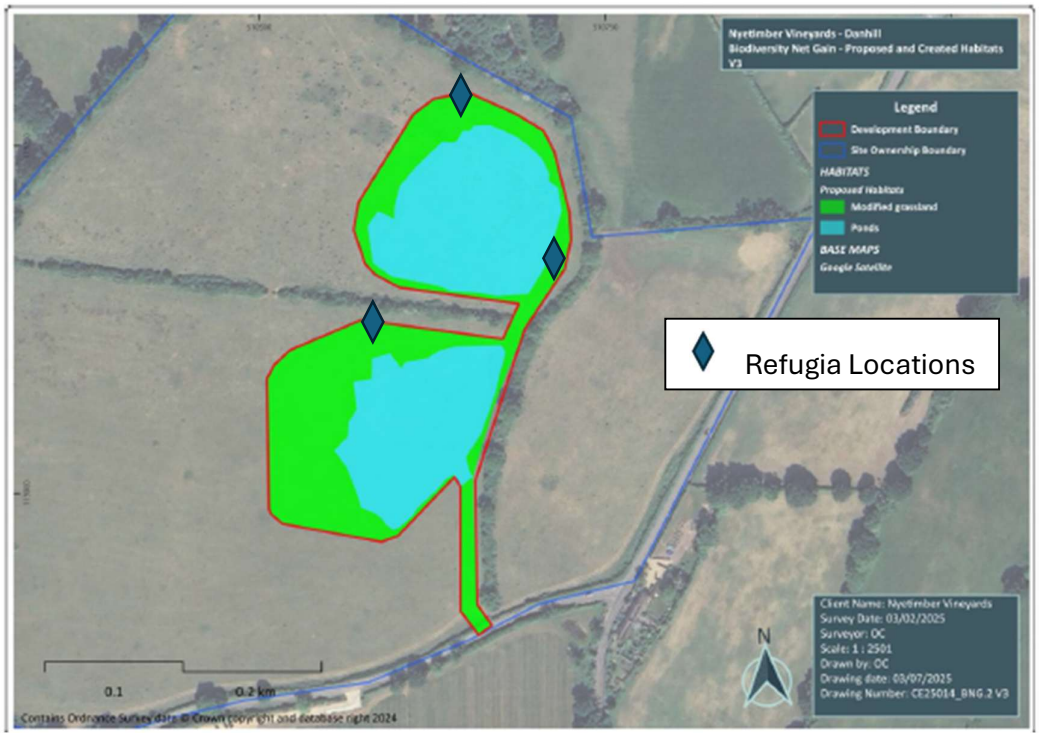

Fig 1: Map detailing Refugia locations to support reptile and amphibian populations in new Danhill pond and rewilding area.

Methodology

Hibernacula will be created according to guidelines from the Freshwater Habitats Trust. Deadwood from across the Danhill area will be gathered and piled at each location in order to form a hibernacula refuge type mound. These mounds will be put in place following the creation of the pond areas. In each location, larger pieces of deadwood also from the surrounding site will be used to create a hibernacula structure for this to be placed within. The hibernacula will be positioned so that they are adjacent to but not in contact with pond edges. The ponds have been designed to be gently sloping, creating areas of ephemeral habitats which will provide safe access and exit to creatures using these areas, this being supported by natural plant colonisation of the area as it matures. In way, reproductive and hibernation stages of amphibian and reptile life cycles will be supported along with those habitat requirements required for them to survive and thrive. Some spoil from the excavations will be used to partially cover these hibernacula areas creating a habitat full of diverse depths, moisture contents, light and temperatures which will attract a large range of amphibian and reptile species.

References

- Million Ponds Project. (n/a). *Creating ponds for amphibians and reptiles*. [Online]. Freshwater Habitats Trust. Available at: https://content.freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/2013/09/Amphibians-_Common-Toad-Great-Crested-Newt-and-Grass-Snake_-new-logo.p [Accessed 19 March 2025].
- Froglife. (2015). *surveying for amphibians*. [Online]. Froglife. Available at: https://www.froglife.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Amphibian-survey-booklet-3mm-bleed.pdf [Accessed 19 March 2025].