

**May 2021**

## **Ponds for great crested newts to be created in North Lincs**

A number of ponds are set to be created in the North Lincolnshire area, thanks to a new scheme funded by Natural England that is designed to protect the great crested newt (GCN) species.

Sheffield-based environmental consultancy Wildscapes CIC has been appointed by Natural England to create a number of ponds across the region this year and is seeking farmers and landowners who would like to have these habitats created or restored on their land. Wildscapes CIC will carry out all pond creation/restoration works (including adding suitable fencing if required) and all landowners are asked to do is to take a few basic measures to protect the habitat quality of the pond. These ponds are required to be a minimum size of 150m<sup>2</sup> and Wildscapes CIC will carry out maintenance and monitoring visits on a periodic basis over 25 years.

Great crested newts are a European protected species, which means that the newts, their eggs, breeding sites and resting places are protected by law.

Steven Greenwood, Conservation Contracts Manager for Wildscapes on the Great Crested Newts scheme, explains: "During the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, half of the UK's ponds were lost and this has led to the serious decline of the great crested newt population. This scheme is designed to support the development process to create more habitats and to secure the long-term protection of this important, protected species."

The scheme has seen great success in other areas, such as South Yorkshire and Derbyshire, where Wildscapes CIC has recently created its 50<sup>th</sup> pond.

The project is part of a national strategy to bolster great crested newt populations in stronghold areas and allow Local Authorities to undertake landscape scale management of the population through District Level Licencing. It is anticipated that Natural England will fund the creation/restoration of over 1000 ponds ideally suited for GCN.



Sheffield &  
Rotherham



### **Facts on pond loss**

- 50% of the UK's ponds were lost during the 20th century, whilst the majority of remaining ponds are classed as being in a poor state.
- Many ponds are man-made and were mainly lost from our landscape due to land use change; in particular, the move away from mixed farming that occurred from the early 1960s.
- Modelling shows that it is the loss of these ponds that has been the main factor in the decline of GCN.

Landowners/farmers in North Lincolnshire are encouraged to contact Wildscapes to discuss the suitability of their land for the project. More information can be found here;

<https://wildscapes.co.uk/pond-creation>

ENDS

For further information, please contact Nicola Livsey, Marketing and Communications Officer at Wildscapes CIC, on [n.livsey@wildsheffield.com](mailto:n.livsey@wildsheffield.com) or 0114 303 5123. The attached images are available for use only in connection with this press release and must be credited to Wildscapes CIC.

### **Notes to editors:**

#### **Wildscapes CIC**

Wildscapes is a customer driven environmental consultancy providing services in Ecology, Land Management and Training. We manage multidisciplinary projects rich in wildlife, which deliver valuable social, economic and political benefits to local communities and the environment.

As a registered Community Interest Company, established in 2007 and owned by the Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust, all of our profits are re-invested back into the charitable work of our parent company.

We work with all sectors, organisations and individuals who have a responsibility or interest to consider the environmental impacts of their work. Our services are designed to maximise the



value of green spaces for our clients and their customers, and are delivered with a detailed sensitivity to habitats and conservation.

### **Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust**

Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust is a registered charity and works with the local community to protect and enhance the environment in Sheffield and Rotherham, working towards a better future for wildlife, people and the green spaces we all rely on.

We are supported by almost 6,000 members and over 100 volunteers and we are part of a national network of 46 Wildlife Trusts, working together to make the UK a better place for wildlife and people.

The Trust manages 16 nature reserves including Greno Woods, Wyming Brook, Blacka Moor, Sunnybank and Centenary Riverside and recent projects include the delivery of natural flood risk management schemes on the Rother and recording the return of the otter along the River Don.

The Trust delivers a programme of activities throughout the year to inspire people of all ages to learn about nature and enjoy being outdoors. We also take action for wildlife and green spaces under threat, including campaigning to save Smithy Wood, an ancient woodland and local wildlife site, from being turned into a motorway service station.

### **The Wildlife Trusts**

With more than 800,000 members, the Wildlife Trusts are the largest UK voluntary organisation dedicated to conserving the full range of the UK's habitats and species. Collectively we manage over 2,300 nature reserves covering more than 90,000 hectares.