

## LETTER TO BE SIGNED BY LANDOWNERS



Total Environment Service  
The Portal  
Wellington Road  
Elsmere Port  
CH65 0BA

Dear Cllr Julie Horner,

Natural England has devised and is paying for a scheme to create and improve pond habitat for Great Crested Newts in Cheshire West and Chester and has selected Cheshire West and Chester Council to start this work. You, as a landowner, have presented us with the opportunity to restore and/or create ponds on your land. We are very grateful to you for this.

Once created, and in order to ensure good value for money, these ponds will require future monitoring and maintenance. We would therefore be grateful for your agreement that for the next 25 years we (or another specialist habitat management body appointed by Natural England) may have periodic access to the ponds created on your land. The terms of this would be as follows:

- Visits are expected to be infrequent – less than annual;
- Most visits will be for monitoring purposes and will be brief;
- In order to reduce shading and keep ponds in optimum condition for Great Crested Newts scrub growth on the southern sides of ponds may need to be cut back, perhaps every 6 to 8 years. Natural England will arrange and pay for this;
- You, or any subsequent owner of the land, would be informed prior to all access and any works;
- All reasonable efforts would be made to avoid causing disturbance or inconvenience.

Additionally, we would be grateful for your agreement to take simple measures to protect the habitat quality of the ponds for Great Crested Newts, as follows:

- Do not stock with fish (which eat invertebrates and young newts);
- Leave a three metre buffer zone around pond, inside which grazing is no more than light and there is little disturbance;
- Avoid excessive grazing of pond vegetation by livestock;
- Avoid poaching of pond sides and frequent entry of grazing animals into ponds;
- Do not plant trees or create shade on the southern sides of ponds;
- Do not introduce non-native plants;
- Do not link the pond with other water bodies or water sources such as streams, ditches or drains;
- Protect the pond from agricultural runoff and chemical spray-drift;
- Do not encourage wildfowl to use the pond, eg by feeding-in or providing duck houses.

If you cease to be the owner or occupier of any land on which pond habitat has been created under this scheme it would be greatly appreciated if you could let us know about this and help us to make contact with the new owner or occupier.

We would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this letter by signing a copy and returning it to us.

Thank you very much for your contribution to the conservation of Great Crested Newts.

Yours faithfully

Caitlin Cross

Landowner Name: TILSTON PARISH COUNCIL .

Signature: 

Date: 30/08/2024 .