

Ecological report for pond located in Gisburn Forest, Lancashire

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Forestry Commission England (North England Forest District) has been asked to provide an ecological report detailing any current biological interest in and surrounding a small pond adjacent to a car park in Gisburn Forest. This request is due to the forthcoming application for planning permission to build a toilet block close by.

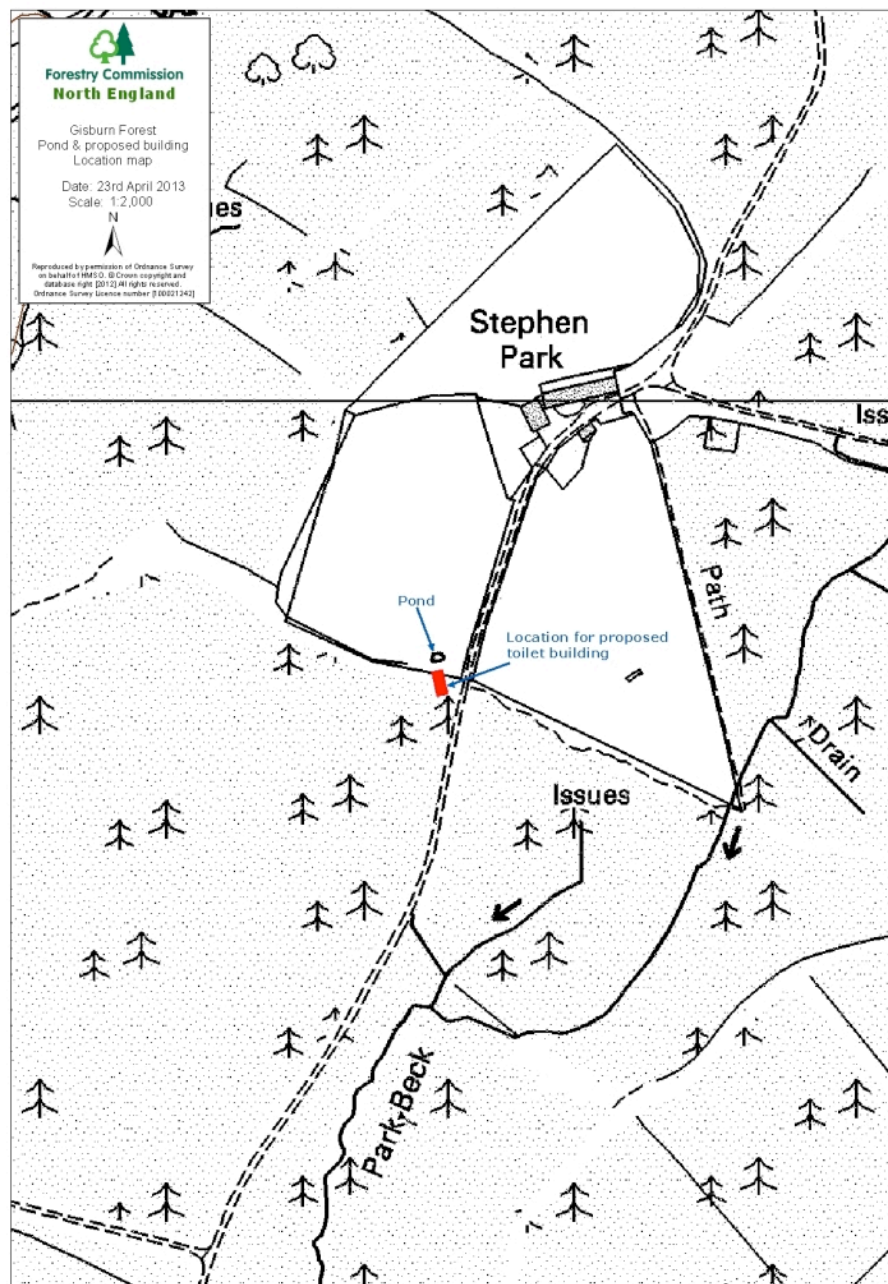


Figure 1. Location of pond and proposed toilet block at Gisburn Forest

North England Forest District holds details of important species found on land owned and managed by the Forestry Commission on a Geographical Information System. Biological data for Lancashire County is also held on the Lancashire Environmental Record Network.

There are no species records of particular interest associated with the pond, either with legal protection, or with no protection but considered to be of local importance, held on the GIS. This includes bats, birds, flowering plants, fungi, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates. In addition there are no records of conservation importance held by the Lancashire Environment Record Network for this area.

Surveys were not carried out for great crested newts, as newts were unlikely to be present in or around the pond at the time of writing (April). However as great crested newts are recorded elsewhere in Gisburn Forest, a survey has been arranged for all waterbodies in Gisburn Forest, including the car park pond during 2013. If great crested newts are found in this pond, the proposed construction of the toilet block will include consideration of the species and their protected status. If necessary an appropriate license will be obtained to comply with European Protected Species legislation.



Figure 2. Car park pond



Figure 3. Pond and location of proposed toilet block behind