

County: Worcestershire

Site Name: Lyppard Grange Ponds

District: Worcester

Status: Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) notified under Section 28 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, (as amended).

Local Planning Authority: Worcestershire County Council, Worcester City Council

National Grid Reference: S0879556

Area: 1.09 ha 2.69 ac

Ordnance Survey Sheets: 1:50000: 150

1:10000: S085 NE

Notified (under 1949 Act): Not Applicable

Notified (under 1981 Act): 16 August 2000

Reasons for Notification:

This site supports one of the largest known breeding populations of great crested newt *Triturus cristatus* in the UK.

General Description:

Lyppard Grange Ponds are two field ponds located in the grounds of the former Lyppard Grange farm. The terrestrial habitat within these grounds, previously formal garden and orchard, has become neglected rough grassland with brambles and scrub, and retains many mature native and exotic trees. The area serves as public open space within recently constructed housing and other built development.

These two ponds, along with the associated terrestrial habitats, support the largest known breeding colony of great crested newts in the county. Surveys carried out annually since 1987 have consistently recorded large numbers of individuals. This site also supports the largest known population of great crested newts in the wider Severn and Avon Vales Natural Area.

Prior to the commencement of urban development in 1989 the surrounding area was typical of traditional pasture land before agricultural intensification. During the developments on the adjoining land mitigation measures on the site involved the provision of supplementary hibernacula (where the animals overwinter) and safe refuges to sustain the newt population. Water supplies were safeguarded by diversion of supplementary runoff from roofs to the site and directly into the pools: The ponds are eutrophic with well established submergent vegetation, providing ideal breeding habitat.

A substantial population of smooth newts *Triturus vulgaris* also occurs on the site and grass snake *Natrix natrix* has been recorded on three separate occasions in the larger of the ponds. The ponds also support a rich and diverse variety of aquatic invertebrates including one nationally rare species *Hydrochus elongatus*, a scavenger water beetle.

Other Information:

The species is listed on:

- The Conservation (Natural Habitats,&c.) Regulations 1994, Schedule 2.
- The European Communities Directive 92/43/EEC, on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora - The Habitats Directive, Annex 11 and IVa..
- The Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981, Schedule 5.
- The Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, (Berne Convention, 1979) Article 6, Appendix 11.
- Great crested newt is a priority species of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.