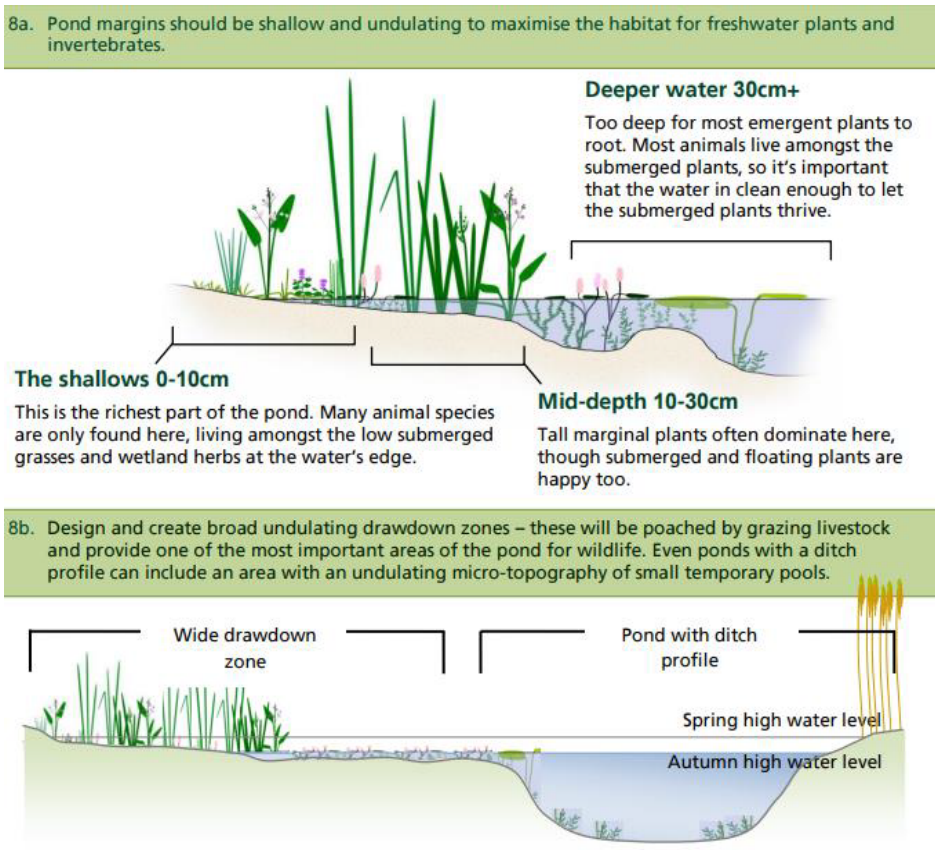


Small ponds to be allowed to colonise naturally with vegetation; Pond locations to be confirmed on site by a qualified ecologist to avoid water vole burrows and sensitive riparian habitat. Ponds to be excavated to a central depth of 1.5m with varied shallow margins (1:1.5–1:2 battered slopes). All topsoil to be stripped and used to form compacted bunds, left to colonise naturally. Ponds to accommodate seasonal water level fluctuation. Temporary fencing will be in place for two years, thereafter ponds to be managed by grazing as part of GS1 management regime.

A minimum 10m buffer will be established along the riverbank, fenced to exclude livestock and protect the riparian corridor from agricultural management. Temporary (electric) fencing will be installed along the River Thames to create the riparian buffer and control livestock access. The buffer will be managed through natural regeneration with minimal intervention, allowing tall grassland, wetland vegetation and riparian scrub to develop naturally over time. This will provide habitat for water vole, otter, birds, amphibians and invertebrates, improve bank stability and enhance ecological connectivity. Intervention will be limited to control of invasive species or excessive scrub encroachment where it threatens habitat diversity.

Habitat Support Area: Cricklade Meadow GS1
Vegetation protection
All existing vegetation to be retained is to be protected in line with the recommendations of Arboricultural Report. Protection shall remain in place until site works are complete.
HSA Preparation
Livestock to be used to reduce sward to 35cm, and to achieve approx 50% bare ground. The aim of the pre-works grazing is to reduce the height of the vegetation and to create bare areas of ground. Avoid poaching, with livestock removed in wet conditions. If instructed by Appointed Ecologist, additional areas of bare ground to be created through scarification with a disc/chain harrow.
HSA Establishment Year 1
Where available, green hay from a local donor site (e.g. Blakehill Farm NR) to be cut at peak flowering (late June/July), transported within 24 hours and spread thinly across prepared areas. If no donor site is available, Emorsgate EM3 Special General-Purpose Meadow Mixture to be slot-sown in autumn at 20kg/ha. Cattle will be put out on the field once the seed is sown to tread the seed into the soil; Cattle will be put out on the field in the early spring and late summer to control the growth of vigorous grasses.
Annual Management, Year 2 onwards
Establishment and grassland management to be carried out by grazing, subject to detail grazing plan as approved LEMP. Spring: cattle to graze at 0.5 Livestock Units (LU)/ha to reduce dominant growth. April/July: Cattle removed and fields shut up for flowering and seed shed. Mid-July/August: hay cut from inside outwards, tedded, baled and removed. 5m field margin buffers retained for invertebrates; cut bi-annually in autumn if required. Post-cut: aftermath grazing to control vigorous grasses

Existing hedgerows to be retained.

Existing hedgerow management and proposed hedgerow post establishment management: Long-term Management (January/February): Cut on rotation every 3 years on alternate sides using a tractor-mounted flail. Minimum height and width of 3m. Basal bramble and scrub to be retained to provide foraging and nesting habitat. Neat hedgerows to be avoided.

Mown Footpaths
1.2m - 1.8m width flail mown footpath route through meadows. Exact alignment to be changed each season to avoid compaction.

Route of public right of way managed by mowing route through HSA.

Pedestrian Access
Galvanized steel kissing gates (see detail) at locations identified. Signage on route of public right of way.

Interpretation
Lectern style interpretation boards at locations identified.

NB This drawing to be read in conjunction with the Stones Farm Habitat and Management Monitoring Plan and the Stones Farm Landscape and Ecology Management Plan

PL	06/08	initial plan, gates, bins, walls	KMD	06/08
PL	11/08	additional annotations	KMD	11/08
PL	12/08	footpath signs coordinated with LEMP	KMD	12/08
PL	17/08	enclosures	KMD	17/08

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PROJECT
Stones Farm, Cricklade

TITLE HSA Landscape - Detail Area 2 - HSA Area, ponds			
PURPOSE OF ISSUE Planning	DRAWN BY PL	CHECKED BY KMD	
PROJECT No 2917	STATUS S3	REVISION P6	SCALE @ A1 1:500
DRAWING NUMBER 2917-RDJWL-ZZ-00-DR-A-0003			