

# **Ponds, Scrapes and Farming in Protected Landscapes in the North Pennines AONB**

## **Advice for applicants**

New ponds and scrapes, or enhancement of existing ponds and scrapes fits within the objectives of FiPL. The relevant outcomes under NATURE might include:

- *There is a greater area of wildlife rich habitat*
- *There is greater connectivity between habitats*
- *Existing habitat is better managed for biodiversity*
- *There is an increase in biodiversity*

Depending in circumstances and design the feature may also contribute to the following outcomes under CLIMATE:

- *More carbon is stored and/or sequestered*
- *Flood risk has been reduced*
- *The landscape is more resilient to climate change*

## **Planning permission**

The requirement for planning permission depends on where you are in the North Pennines and the attitude of the local authority as to whether ponds and scrapes fall within Part 6 of the GDPO 1995. The responses we have received from the planning authorities have not contradicted our stated view that ponds and scrapes created primarily for their wildlife value can also be described as ‘for agricultural purposes’.

In **Northumberland**: Planning permission is not required if the pond or scrape meets all three conditions below:

- on a commercial agricultural holding of more than 5ha, and not sited on a separate parcel of land of less than 1ha
- being created for the management of the land for agricultural purposes
- does not exceed 0.1ha in area

In **Carlisle and Eden Districts**: Planning permission is not required for scrapes and small ponds on farms. We would suggest using the same definition as Northumberland above.

In **County Durham**: Generally, ponds and small scrapes on farms are thought not to need planning permission but DCC would like to have sight of any proposals to check. Any plans for ponds are to be submitted by your FiPL Advisor to the South West Durham Team to check that permission is not required. [john.byers@durham.gov.uk](mailto:john.byers@durham.gov.uk)

## Other checks

**Archaeology** – You will need to check the Historic Environment Record to ensure you are not excavating or spreading spoil on important historic/archaeological sites. The map on the website below shows all designated sites, if you select: Land based designations, and both of the Historic categories

<https://magic.defra.gov.uk/magicmap.aspx>

Further information may be available through your county archaeologists:

Durham: [archaeology@durham.gov.uk](mailto:archaeology@durham.gov.uk);

Northumberland: [archaeology@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:archaeology@northumberland.gov.uk)

Cumbria: [mark.brennand@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:mark.brennand@cumbria.gov.uk)

## Pond or scrape design

Siting a pond where it will hold water and provide value for wildlife will be largely based on your experience of your land and any advice which your advisor can give, but you should consider the following:

- *Is there a natural source of water (i.e. a spring, burn or surface run-off)?*
- *Can you dig the pond in ground which will not drain such as natural clay?*
- *Can you locate the pond near an existing area of wetland as part of a wetland complex?*
- *Could existing habitats of value (wet or dry) be damaged by a new pond?*
- *Larger ponds in areas exposed to wind can suffer from wave erosion of banks. Wind-blown seeds and insects can however help your pond to colonise quickly*
- *Position the pond in a place where the sun will reach it. Shaded ponds may be colder and less productive.*
- *Too many decaying leaves from trees can also use up oxygen and cause the pond to become stagnant.*
- *A pond in-line with a stream which can run high in spate will need a downstream damn wall of robust construction, possibly using stone.*

## What FiPL can fund

For simple pond and scrape creation and enhancement we can use the Countryside Stewardship rates available. (Creation or restoration of larger or more complex water bodies can be paid at cost (three quotes, or one quote and two comparators, required)).

- CS rate for a scrape is £2.23 per square metre (WN2)
- CS rate for a pond is £282.15 for a pond of 100 square metres or less (WN5), and for ponds over 100 square metres £188.94 can be paid per 100 square metres (WN6).

- Additional rates are available for sluices and other structures. See CS rates here: <https://www.gov.uk/countryside-stewardship-grants>

In addition to these capital rates above, we can pay maintenance rates for the subsequent financial years after construction, until the end of the FiPL programme on March 2024, according to the Countryside Stewardship rates as follows:

- For ponds 100 square metres or less, an annual payment of £119/pond (WT4)
- For ponds larger than 100 square metres, an annual payment of £211 per pond (WT5)