



Habitat Action Plan

Chapmans Pond

YORK



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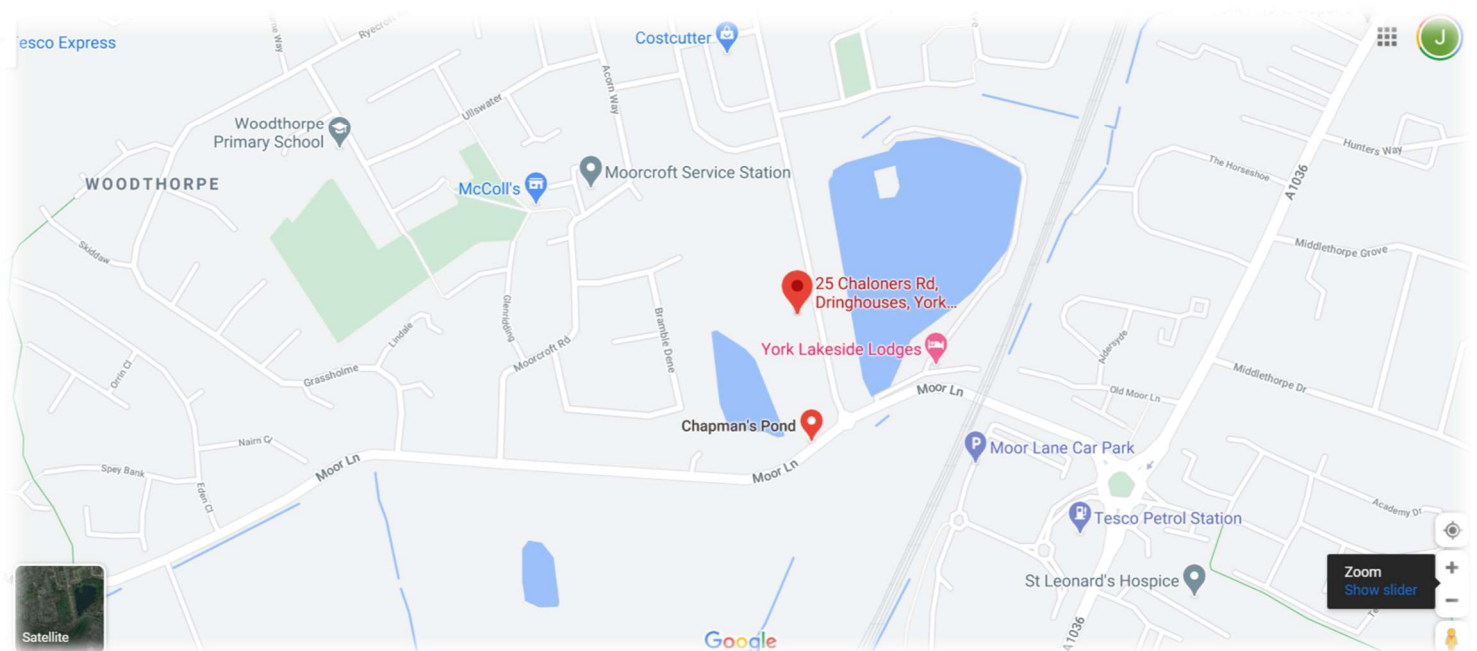
Chapman's Pond

Moor Ln,

Woodthorpe,

York

YO24 2QY



Summary

Habitat works at Chapmans Pond will consist of some small tree works and the restoration of two ponds. All spoil and wood will remain on site and be used in the creation of hibernacula that will provide habitats for a range of our native amphibian species and also encourage native reptiles.

1 Introduction

1.1 Site Background

Chapman's Pond is a 2.6 ha site off Moor Lane in Dringhouses. The pond itself covers roughly a third of the site with other habitats including woodland and meadow. It is currently managed by the Council with the assistance of Chapman's Pond Community Interest Group (CPCIG)

For legal reasons Chapman's Pond CIC have superseded the Friends of Chapman's Pond Group who were a long running group and have over the years carried out practical maintenance tasks and conservation enhancements.



1.2 Site Description and Surrounding Area

A large lake popular with anglers is bordered by pathways and woodland that are home to waterbodies that are heavily shaded and silted. The site has locked gated access for machinery and a car park at the entrance to the park off of Moor lane. On the western side the lake is bordered by homes with their gardens backing onto the lake and woodland to the north and east.

2 Site Proposals

2.1 Need for site works

Currently the pond referred to as Frog Pond in the North West of the site is in need of restoration. It is heavily shaded by surrounding trees that could if felled provide suitable material for hibernacula and also dead wood for invertebrates. The water quality on the recent site visit looked poor with the likelihood that many years of leaf litter and decomposition were responsible for the ponds appearance. There was limited peripheral pond vegetation for amphibians and the pond would benefit from some subtle planting on the edge of native aquatics.

An area located with the CP CIC group co-ordinator within 30m of Frog Pond would benefit from the creation of a new pond. This would provide a new breeding pond for amphibians amongst the woodland and would fill naturally from rainwater to ensure that the water quality would be of an excellent quality.



2.2 Specification

After selected and agreed with the landowner and CPCIC, trees will be cleared from around Frog Pond to allow more light into the area and reduce leaf litter going forward. The trees will be logged and used around the pond leaving a buffer for excavator access in the future. The pond will then be de silted and reprofiled to allow a very gentle drawdown zone on all sides for wildlife and this may be achieved by bringing the edge of the pond further back from its current position. The silt will be spread in an area of bramble to the left of the pond and also in an area cleared to the right of the pond. The pond is of a significant size so the amount of silt removed will be considerable and so areas cleared will need to be easily accessible for the excavator. Restoration of this pond will have to be sensitive to any wildlife currently using the pond.

The second pond in the woodland will again need some tree clearance before machinery is taken in to create a pond of approx. 10m x 8m x 1.5m. The spoil can be spread in the surrounding area and also used to create hibernacula with the wood cleared and logged to allow access. This area was wet underfoot when visited in Feb 2021 and as it is a pond creation the excavator work would benefit from being done in dry conditions as long as the tree work had already been completed. As the pond is not to be lined the shape and profile can be adjusted to suit the landscape and existing mature tree root systems.

Access for the machinery would be via the car park at the site entrance and the machine marshalled down to the area of works. RAMS for the excavator will follow and be provided by the contracted excavator operator.



Strategy

Froglife will coordinate the project, in full consultation with the land owners and CPCIC all works will be supervised by Froglife. Following completion of the works Froglife staff will revisit the site in year

1, 3, 5 and 10 to carry out monitoring surveys and assess management requirements. The site staff and volunteers will be provided with training on managing the restored habitats and on amphibian survey techniques to enable them to manage and monitor the site in the future.

Budget £7,800k

1. Tree clearance and logging – Approx 5 days chainsaw work
2. Frog Pond Restoration - Approx 5 days excavator
3. New pond creation –Approx 10m x 8m x 1.5m unlined qty 2 days excavator

