

# Chess Priority Pond Survey Field sheet

Your full name(s)

Date

Pond grid reference

(8 fig Minimum e.g. SP 1235 4325)

Pond ID Number

## 1) Inflows:

1=inflow is present, 0= no inflow

## 2) Overhanging trees & shrubs:

 %

**% of pond overhung by trees and shrubs.** This is an estimate of how much of the pond is *directly* overhung by trees and shrubs, i.e. that would be shaded if the sun was directly overhead. See diagrams overleaf for guidance.

## 3) Aquatic and wetland vegetation cover (excluding duckweed, water fern and filamentous algae):

 %

**% of the whole pond (wet and dry) occupied by water plants** like grasses, water mint and rushes, submerged (e.g. water-crowfoot) species and floating species e.g. waterlily. See diagrams overleaf for guidance.

## 4) Grazing intensity:

**Rank 1-5** (1=infrequent or low intensity to 5=margins heavily poached and almost bare). Intermediate scores e.g. 3.5 can be used. See table overleaf for guidance.

## 5) Isolation:

**From where you are standing, estimate number of nearby visible waterbodies.** This could include ponds, lakes, rivers, streams, ditches, fen, bog, marsh, wet seepages/springs/flushes, reed beds, scrapes, backwater, manmade waterbodies (e.g. canal, reservoir).

## 6) Surrounding land use:

In table below, estimate the **percentage of surrounding land-use in distance zones outward from the pond outer edge** (i.e. the maximum winter water level). In many ponds the 0-5m zone will be dominated by the vegetation on the pond's upper banks. Greyed-out boxes indicate information that is not required.

Note: this list only includes land use types relevant for the PASS survey. In most cases, the columns will not add up to 100%. If a land use type is not present within the distance zone write 0% in the box.

Land use type	0-5m %	0-100m %	Examples
Trees, woodland & scrub			Deciduous woodland, individual trees, scrub and hedgerows (exclude coniferous woodland and commercial orchards)
Heath & moorland			Lowland and upland heath and moorland; includes bracken
Rank vegetation			Unmanaged grass, neglected and abandoned land, set-aside, verges and buffer strips.
Unimproved grassland			Herb-rich, calcareous and acid grassland (good quality plant indicators usually present). Low percentage of agricultural grasses. Not fertilised, little or no drainage.
Semi-improved grassland			A transition category. Grasslands modified by fertilisers, drainage, herbicides or intensive grazing, but retaining elements of natural grassland types in the area.
Ponds & lakes			Permanent and seasonal standing waterbodies
Other semi-natural			E.g. maritime vegetation, saltmarsh, sand-dune, cliffs, rock-outcrops, gravel-pits, quarries, areas of sand, gravel or stone, river, stream, ditch and spring, canals, bog, fen, marsh & flush
Conifer woodland			Coniferous woodland
Arable			All crops (except grass). Includes flower, vegetable and soft fruit crops and ploughed or fallow arable land

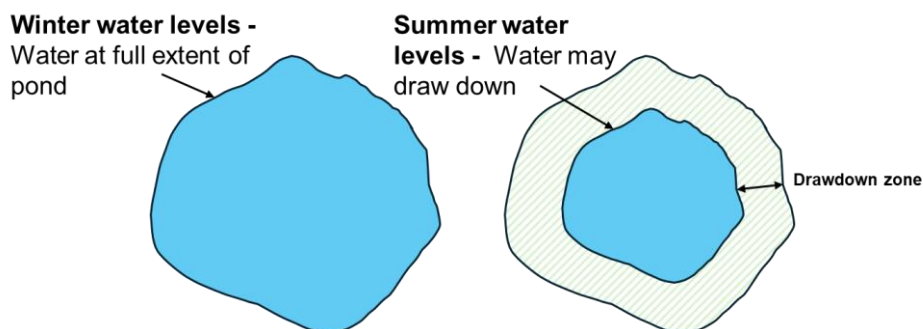
Please send any photos of the pond to [svincent@freshwaterhabitats.org.uk](mailto:svincent@freshwaterhabitats.org.uk)

# Guidance for the surveyor

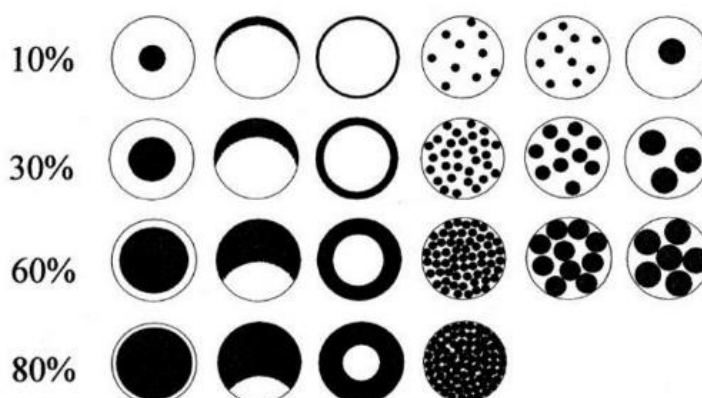
## Pond extent

The full extent of the pond may be larger than where the water is currently sitting, particularly in the summer months when it may dry down. Some ponds may even be completely dry.

Please use the full pond extent, i.e. the area water will cover in the winter. Vegetation change and tide marks on trees or branches are a good indication of the high-water levels and the pond extent.



## % Cover of Overhanging Tree & Shrub, and of Aquatic Vegetation:



## Grazing intensity

The extent of grazing and trampling (poaching) by livestock e.g. cattle, sheep, horses, or other hooved animals (e.g. wild deer) that have access to the pond.

*Excludes: rabbits, ducks & geese, people or dogs.*

Evidence of grazing:

- Grazed grassland vegetation at the pond edge
- Hoof poaching and trampling in pond mud
- Presence of animal dung in the pond or surrounds.

Score	Grazing levels
0	No grazing
1	Infrequent or low intensity grazing, for example, ponds that can be accessed by animals, but the surrounding grassland is tall and shows few signs of grazing
2	Clear evidence of grazing, and probably poaching, on the pond banks and margins, but not sufficient to create extensive areas of bare ground in these areas (<5%)
3	Ponds that have short-grazed vegetation on the pond banks and/or significant evidence of hoof poaching with 0% to 20% of the margins exposed as trampled mud.
4	Pond banks and margins heavily grazed and poached so that between 20% and 90% of the pond banks and margins are bare poached mud
5	Pond margins so heavily poached and grazed that they are almost bare of vegetation (i.e pond margins are at least 90% mud).

The PASS Survey Method video presentation and pdf guide are available on the Freshwater Habitats Trust website.