Annex IX: Photos of Oak Court Farm:

The Pond and the Dewpond (January 2025)



The Pond, viewed from the eastern side, facing west. Taken in mid-January 2025, this photo gives an indication of the depth of water which the Pond can accommodate.



The Pond, still viewed from the east, looking west. This photo illustrates how overgrown the Pond is, which is effectively choking off opportunities for valuable native species of both flora and fauna to thrive.



The Pond: This closer view, seen from the northeast looking southwest, provides a clearer illustration of the amount of overgrowth which is stifling the survival of the desired habitat plants. (The thick ice layer at this time was strong enough to stand on.)



The Pond: As the snow thaws, this photo from later in January illustrates how much water is still retained in the Pond. After restoration, it is hoped that this would allow time for native fauna who may inhabit this habitat to have sufficient opportunity to migrate to other areas (such as the planned open water reservoir and/or the Dewpond) to continue their life-cycles.



The Dewpond: This photo, also taken in January, shows the Dewpond and its associate channel, viewed from the east looking west. The drainage channel runs from the Dewpond at its north to the river at its south.



This photo of the Dewpond and part of the channel illustrates how overgrown and choked both the Dewpond and the drainage channel are. For the drainage channel, particularly, this may be making it difficult for native species to use it as a migration corridor to access the Dewpond and the river. With careful clearing and maintenance, the applicants believe this potentially rich habitat could be restored, in accordance with NRW advice (see Annex X).