

Ponds are valuable wildlife habitats in the Tees Valley Landscape

Ponds are a part of our natural and cultural heritage and are a familiar and much loved feature of our Tees Valley landscape. Ponds provide rich and complex habitats for wildlife supporting a vast array of freshwater plants and animals from mayflies and water beetles to breeding sites for all our amphibian species.

Ponds are a threatened habitat – an estimated three quarters of a million have been lost in last century and the majority that remain have poor water quality. This picture is reflected in the Tees Valley, with agricultural intensification, neglect, urban development and water pollution all playing a role.

Now that ponds are a national priority habitat and a Tees Valley Biodiversity Action Plan habitat there are opportunities to create and restore ponds of high water quality. This is vital to ensure we safeguard our freshwater biodiversity including some survival of our most endangered species

The Tees Valley Pondscape Project

– restoring, recreating and reconnecting pond habitats

Tees Valley Pondscape is a new partnership initiative led by the Tees Valley Biodiversity Partnership and delivered by the Tees Valley Wildlife Trust. The project will be working to readdress the loss of ponds and their associated wildlife across the Tees Valley.

Over the next two years Tees Valley Pondscape will be:

- Surveying ponds and their associated wildlife, ranging from invertebrates, plants amphibians to birds and mammals.
- Creating a comprehensive data base of ponds and pond life enabling us to focus pond work where it will have the greatest benefit to wildlife.
- Strategically creating new high quality ponds using data on the Tees Valley Pondscape database and maps.
- Restoring the ecological condition ponds of priority ponds so that they provide a high quality habitat for rare and vulnerable species.
- Providing information, advice and training on pond ecology creation and management for landowners and managers.
- Creating opportunities for volunteers and community groups to learn about and ponds and help with wildlife surveys and practical conservation projects.
- Working to secure the status and protection of key pond sites.

Free service for landowners, farmers and other land managers

Ecological pond survey and management advice

Every pond is different. By carrying out pond surveys and sampling we can base pond creation and management advice on sound ecological data.

Advice on dealing with invasive plant species

Some exotic pond plants, escapees from garden ponds, can choke ponds. We can assist you in identifying any problem plants and provide action plans for removing them, preventing their spread to other ponds.

Guidance on protected species and sites

By providing up to date information and advice on protected species and designated wildlife sites we ensure that you meet any legal or planning responsibilities.

Assistance with applying for stewardship schemes

If your land is covered by Entry Level or Higher Level Stewardship we can help you select options to benefit ponds and their associated wildlife.

Information on suitable pond plants

New ponds are soon colonised by aquatic plants and animals. If you do need to stock a pond with plants for amenity purposes we can provide guidance on the selection of suitable plant species and suppliers of local provenance plants.

You may be eligible for a practical management plan for your ponds and receive materials, machinery and skilled assistance to get the work carried out.

We have project money which we can spend on creating and managing ponds in the Tees Valley. Funds will be targeted where they provide the greatest gains for biodiversity.



Visit our website for information, news updates and links to a wealth of related websites and sources of information:

www.teesvalleybiodiversity.org.uk/pondscape or email teesvalleyponds@teeswildlife.org