

# Ponds and amphibians survey



## Guidance notes

Ponds contribute significantly to biodiversity. As part of our commitment to the Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan we need to gain an understanding of the distribution of small ponds in Greater Lincolnshire and their biodiversity value so that priorities for conservation management can be identified. Your survey information can help.



## Why are ponds important?

**All life requires water to survive but healthy wetland habitats throughout the UK are in decline.**

There are an estimated 400,000 ponds in the UK. Up to half of the 3,500 invertebrates that live in our freshwaters can be found in ponds, so it is important that they are maintained and managed with other wetland habitats.

In the past, ponds were often considered to be poor habitats of little value, and many have been lost through drainage, infilling and neglect. Until recently ponds have had very little recognition or protection.

In 2007 the UK Biodiversity Action Plan gave ponds Priority Habitat status, and the UK Pond Habitat Action Plan was drafted in 2008. It is thought that around 20% of ponds meet the criteria and can be classed as Priority ponds.

By filling out the form, you can help us update our knowledge on Lincolnshire's ponds to ensure nature thrives.

## Where to start

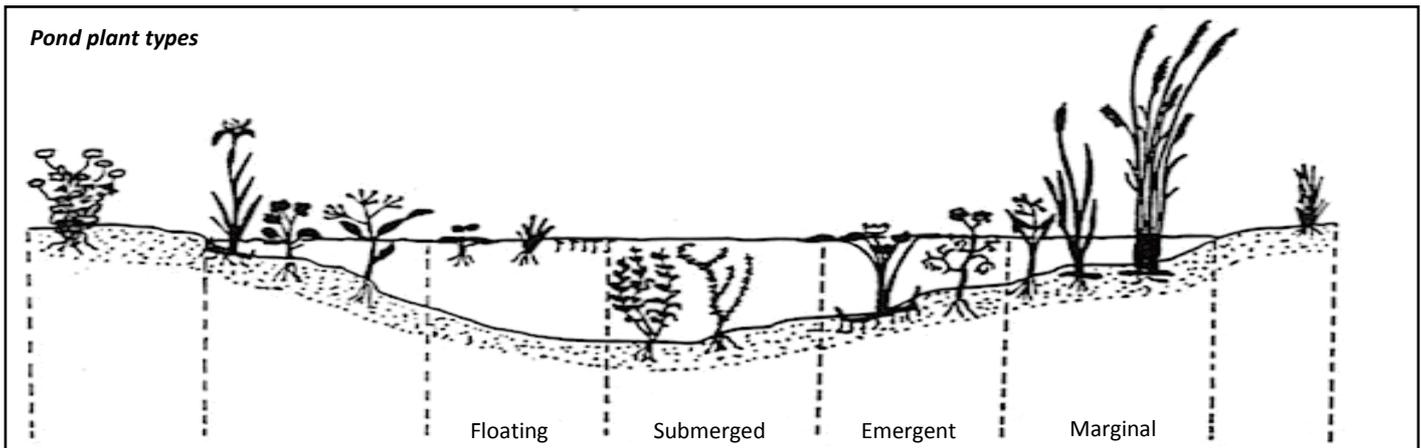
1. Choose a pond or an area with several ponds to survey (a separate recording sheet should be used for each pond surveyed).
2. Identify the pond's location on a 1:25000 Ordnance Survey map, available online at: [www.getamap.ordnancesurveyleisure.co.uk](http://www.getamap.ordnancesurveyleisure.co.uk)
3. If the pond is on private land you should always ask for permission before visiting.
4. For safety reasons you are advised not to wade into ponds.
5. Fill in as much of the survey form as you can, using the notes below to help you. Any separate sheets should have your name, the pond's name and the grid reference.
6. Return the completed survey form(s) to the address at the bottom of the page.

### *Achieving more for nature*

GLNP Banovallum House, Manor House Street, Horncastle, Lincolnshire, LN9 5HF

T: 01507 528398 E: [info@glnp.org.uk](mailto:info@glnp.org.uk) [www.glnp.org.uk](http://www.glnp.org.uk)





## Filling in the survey form

### Section 1 – Surveyor details

- We may need to contact you regarding your survey form or to get more information.
- Information from this survey will be entered into the database of Lincolnshire Environmental Records Centre (LERC). To get the maximum value from the data we intend to enter it onto the National Pond Monitoring Network's national database.
- By submitting the form you agree to be contacted about the pond and for the information you provide to be made publically available (excluding personal details).

### Section 2– Landowner details

- Don't worry if you can't fill in all of this section, but please remember that you should not enter private land or leave a public right of way without the landowner's permission; otherwise you will be trespassing and could be prosecuted.

### Section 3– Pond details

- Grid references should be six figures or more, with two letters at the start. For example, Banovallum House in Horncastle can be found at grid reference TF257695. For more information on using the national grid visit:  
<http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/docs/support/guide-to-nationalgrid.pdf>
- You can also check online whether the pond can be found on a 1:25000 Ordnance Survey map at:  
[www.getamap.ordnancesurveyleisure.co.uk](http://www.getamap.ordnancesurveyleisure.co.uk)

- You can estimate the pond's area by pacing out its length and width using one pace per metre.

### Section 4– Pond survey

- Please indicate north on the sketch map and give an idea of scale. If you know them, you could also include details such as the winter maximum and current water level, information on pond management, and surrounding features like fences, footpaths, vegetation types, and location of other ponds.
- Explanation of pond plant types:
  - *Marginal plants* and *emergent plants* grow in the shallow water at the edge of the pond or in the damp soil on the banks eg. yellow flag iris and marsh marigold.
  - *Floating plants* such as water lilies and duck weed float on the surface of the water.
  - *Submerged plants* grow under the water from the base of the pond. These include various pond weeds, which play an important role in oxygenating the water.
  - Some *algae* are easily visible and form mats like the hair-like blanket weed, which clings to submerged plants and grows from the bank. Others like blue-green algae are microscopic, but can be detected when large numbers colour the water green.
- Additional information – you may record here any information that hasn't been entered elsewhere on the form, such as plant species present, detailed animal sightings, the presence/absence of newt eggs and/or frog/toad spawn, or details of any pond management.
- Help with amphibian identification can be found at:  
<http://www.arguk.org/recording>

### Achieving more for nature



# Ponds and amphibians survey form



**GLNP**  
GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE  
NATURE PARTNERSHIP

Please send completed forms to:

**Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership, Banovallum House, Manor House Street, Horncastle, Lincolnshire, LN9 5HF**

<b>1. SURVEYOR DETAILS</b>		NAME:									
ADDRESS:											
POSTCODE:			TELEPHONE No.				EMAIL:				
<b>2. LANDOWNER DETAILS</b>		NAME:									
ADDRESS:											
POSTCODE:			TELEPHONE No:				EMAIL:				
Is the landowner willing:		i) to be contacted about this data set?			Y / N		ii) for their <b>contact details</b> to be made publicly available?			Y / N	
<b>3. POND DETAILS</b>		POND NAME (if any):									
GRID REFERENCE:						NEAREST TOWN/VILLAGE:					
Is the pond:		i) marked on an Ordnance Survey 1:25000 map?								Y / N	
		ii) on a nature reserve or protected area?		Y / N		if yes, what is the site called?					
Does the pond have an inflow or outflow? (eg. from a river or stream) (Please circle one) INFLOW    OUTFLOW    NEITHER    BOTH    UNCERTAIN											
Does the pond dry up? (Please circle one) NEVER    RARELY (only in drought)    SOMETIMES (about once every three years)    ANNUALLY    UNKNOWN											
POND AREA:		m <sup>2</sup>		POND DEPTH:			POND AGE:				
TYPE OF POND: (Please circle - it can be more than one) GARDEN    VILLAGE    SCHOOL    URBAN    FARM    ANGLING CREATED BY MINING/QUARRYING    OTHER _____											
LAND USE: How much of the surrounding land is taken up by these land-use types? (Please tick the appropriate boxes)											
	Within 5 metres of the pond					Between 5 and 100 metres from the pond					
	none	<¼	¼ to <½	½ to ¾	>¾	none	<¼	¼ to <½	½ to ¾	>¾	
Parks and gardens											
Grassland											
Arable											
Woodland											
Scrub or hedge											
Marsh											
Heath											
Roads and tracks											
Buildings											
Streams and ditches											

**4. POND SURVEY:** DATE:

What percentage of the pond surface is covered by vegetation?

What percentage of the pond is shaded? (overhung at any height)

What types of plant are present? (Please circle all that apply)  
 MARGINAL PLANTS    EMERGENT PLANTS    ALGAE    FREE-FLOATING PLANTS    SUBMERGED PLANTS

Sketch map:

Species known to use the pond:  
 (Please record more detail in the 'Additional information' box, below or on a separate sheet)

Year(s) seen:		Year(s) seen:		Year(s) seen:		Year(s) seen:	
Duck		Smooth newt		Unidentified newt		Fish	
Coot/moorhen		Great crested newt		Common frog		Water vole	
Goose		Palmate newt		Common toad		Dragonfly/damselfly	

Is there rubbish/pollution in the pond?

Is the pond used by livestock at any time in the year? (please circle)  
 NO    CATTLE    SHEEP    HORSES    OTHER    DON'T KNOW

Can you see the bottom of the pond?	Y / N	CLAY    SILT    CONCRETE    BEDROCK DECOMPOSING VEGETATION    BLACK OOZE GRAVEL/SAND    BUTYL/SYNTHETIC    DON'T KNOW OTHER _____
If yes, which of the following best describes the bottom of the pond? (please circle one)		

Additional information: