

Pond workshop

Saturday 2nd March
2-4 pm Kilsallagh

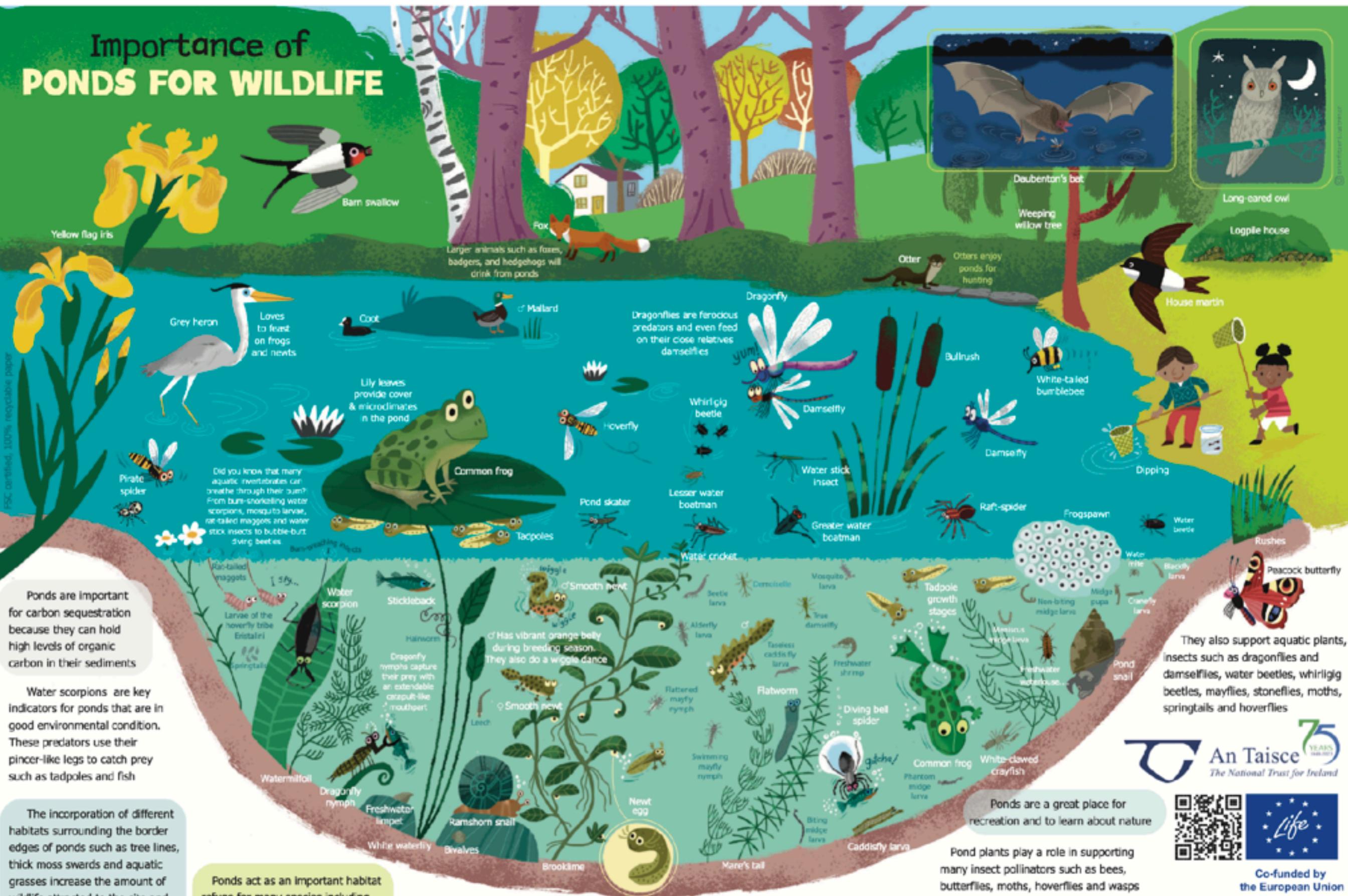


A CALL initiative

<http://www.callclimateaction.ie>

Importance of PONDS FOR WILDLIFE

FSC certified, 100% recyclable paper



Ponds are important for carbon sequestration because they can hold high levels of organic carbon in their sediments

Water scorpions are key indicators for ponds that are in good environmental condition. These predators use their pincer-like legs to catch prey such as tadpoles and fish

The incorporation of different habitats surrounding the border edges of ponds such as tree lines, thick moss swards and aquatic grasses increase the amount of wildlife attracted to the site and also significantly improves the potential for carbon sequestration

Ponds act as an important habitat refuge for many species including amphibians such as common frogs, smooth newts and natterjack toads

Ponds act as great feeding grounds for birds, including herons, swallows and house martins

Sediment & silt. Very important for carbon sequestration

Ponds are excellent feeding grounds for nocturnal insectivorous animals such as bats and owls. Certain owls even eat bats!

They also support aquatic plants, insects such as dragonflies and damselflies, water beetles, whirligig beetles, mayflies, stoneflies, moths, springtails and hoverflies



Co-funded by the European Union

An Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage



HOW TO CREATE & MANAGE A POND FOR WILDLIFE!

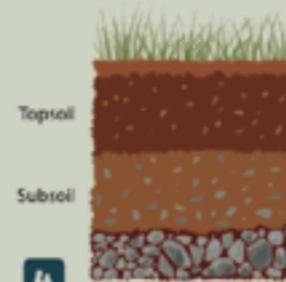


1 Find an area in your garden, school, or green space to locate your pond. Ideally, this area will get plenty of sunlight and not be over shaded by trees or walls.

2 1. Digging a trial pit is a great way to see how your site will retain water. It is always advised to dig approximately 40cm lower than the planned depth of your pond.
2. It's always wise to find out if there are pipes or cables underneath where you plan to dig. You can find this out from your utilities providers.



3 Design your pond. An ideal wildlife pond will be dish shaped, with shallow margins and a smaller deeper area. Most of the pond should be between 10cm-30cm deep, with the deepest part between 50-80cm.



4 Get digging! Remember that it is important to remove the topsoil. You will know the topsoil has been removed when you see the soil changing colour.

5 To protect your liner, place pond fleece or another type of underlay in your excavated area before installing the liner on top. This will stop tree roots and any sharp rocks from puncturing your liner. If you're planning to place heavy ornamental rocks into your pond, consider using more pond fleece on top of your pond liner to make a "pond liner sandwich". This will protect your liner from being punctured from above.



6 Choose an area of your pond and either excavate a very shallow shelf or fill it with stone to make it very shallow. This will make a lovely area for birds to wash and provide a safe ramp for small mammals like hedgehogs to get in and out of the pond.

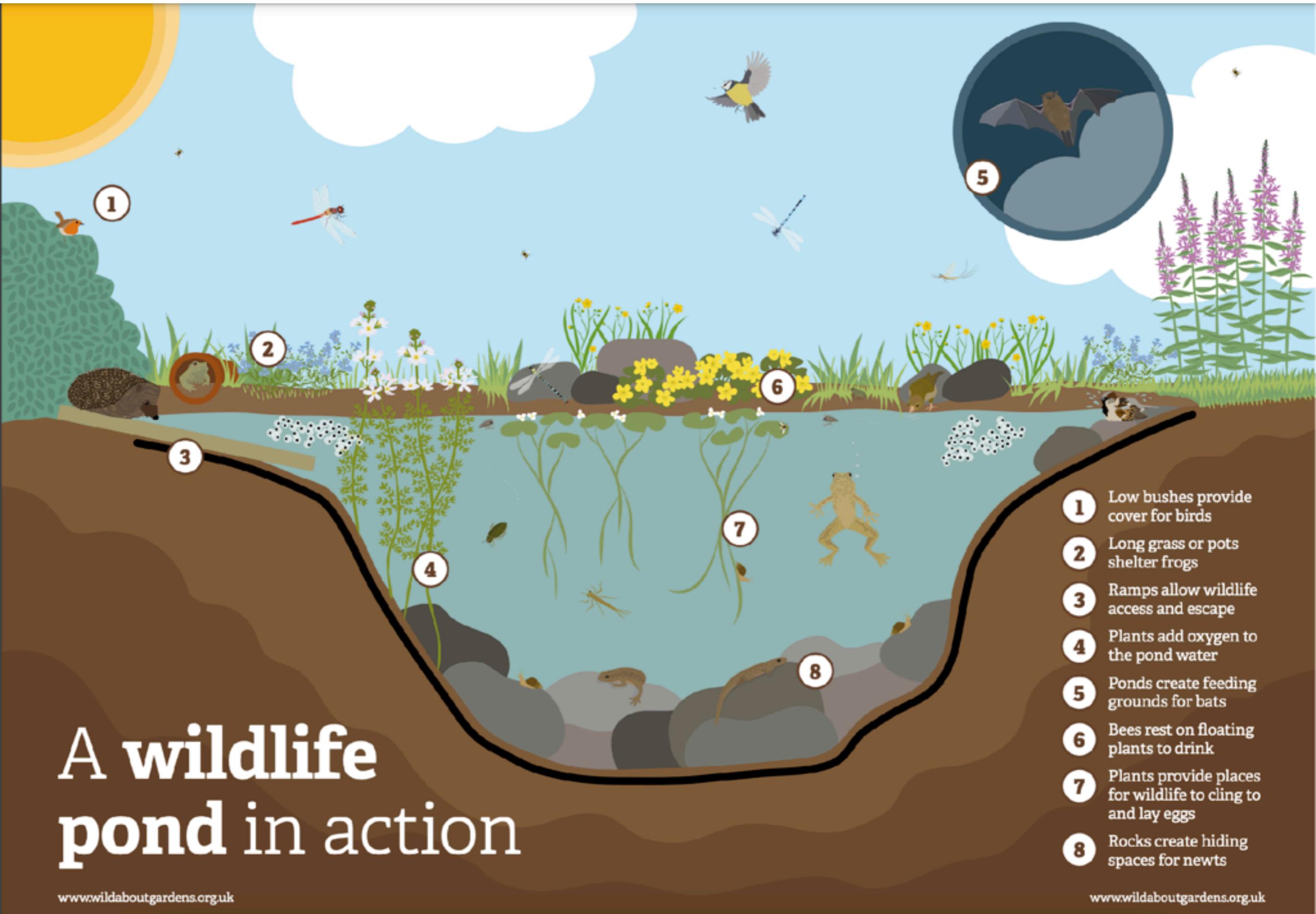
7 Fill your pond with water, ideally use rain or well water.

8 Create some wildlife friendly areas around the edges of your pond, this can include longer grass, log and stone piles, and some branches that birds and dragonflies will use to perch on.

9 Don't be worried about your pond looking a little sparse at the start! Sit back and watch as wildlife and native plants make their way to the pond naturally.

10 Congratulations, enjoy your new pond as it matures and diversifies!





1

2

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- 1 Low bushes provide cover for birds
- 2 Long grass or pots shelter frogs
- 3 Ramps allow wildlife access and escape
- 4 Plants add oxygen to the pond water
- 5 Ponds create feeding grounds for bats
- 6 Bees rest on floating plants to drink
- 7 Plants provide places for wildlife to cling to and lay eggs
- 8 Rocks create hiding spaces for newts

A wildlife pond in action

Building

A pond

James Ryan

Killsalagh (2020)























PondKraft Polyex Pond Liners with FREE Underlay and Lifetime Guarantee

from **€25.19**

PRE ORDERS - Our liners are in stock, but we are currently out of stock of the free underlay. This is due in with us on the 14th March. You can pre-order and your order will be shipped on or before this date.
If you require just a pond liner, check out our [Rubber liners](#), or our

Source of Jame's liner
<https://bradshawsdirect.co.uk/pond-liners/>

Pond stories

Friends from Louisburgh told us about their ponds

Maureen Joyce

Killsalagh (2005)

Maureen's beautiful garden is part of the Clew Bay Garden Trail. The pond is beautiful! These photos don't make it justice.

Lined, her pond harbors frogs, damselflies and dragonflies

She has had some issues with pond weed control



Wendy Woo

Curramalley (2018)

Only deepest part of the pond is lined, they cannot line the whole pond because there is a big bolder at the site. Shallows do dry out in dry weather but not the entire pond.

They did not dig but they built up as on the bottom of a hill. The deepest part is 3-4 ft to stop freezing in winter.

Eventually needed an overflow channel built.

They planted native pond plants (Bogbean, water Forget-me-not, Marsh Marigold, Spearwort plant) and they left some rushes for dragon fly to climb out. The pond has gentle slopes for animals to climb out on.

They introduced frogs as spawn.

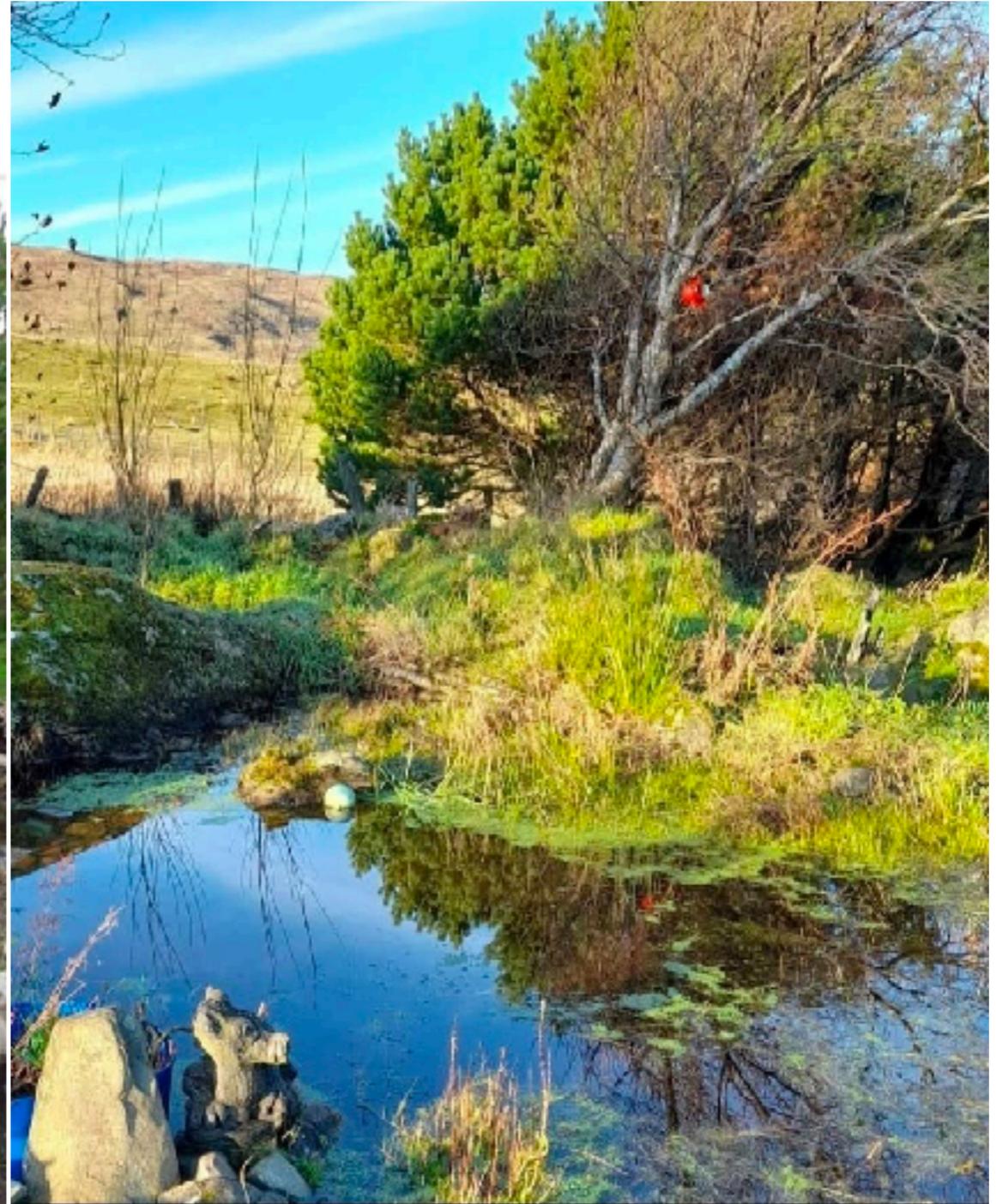
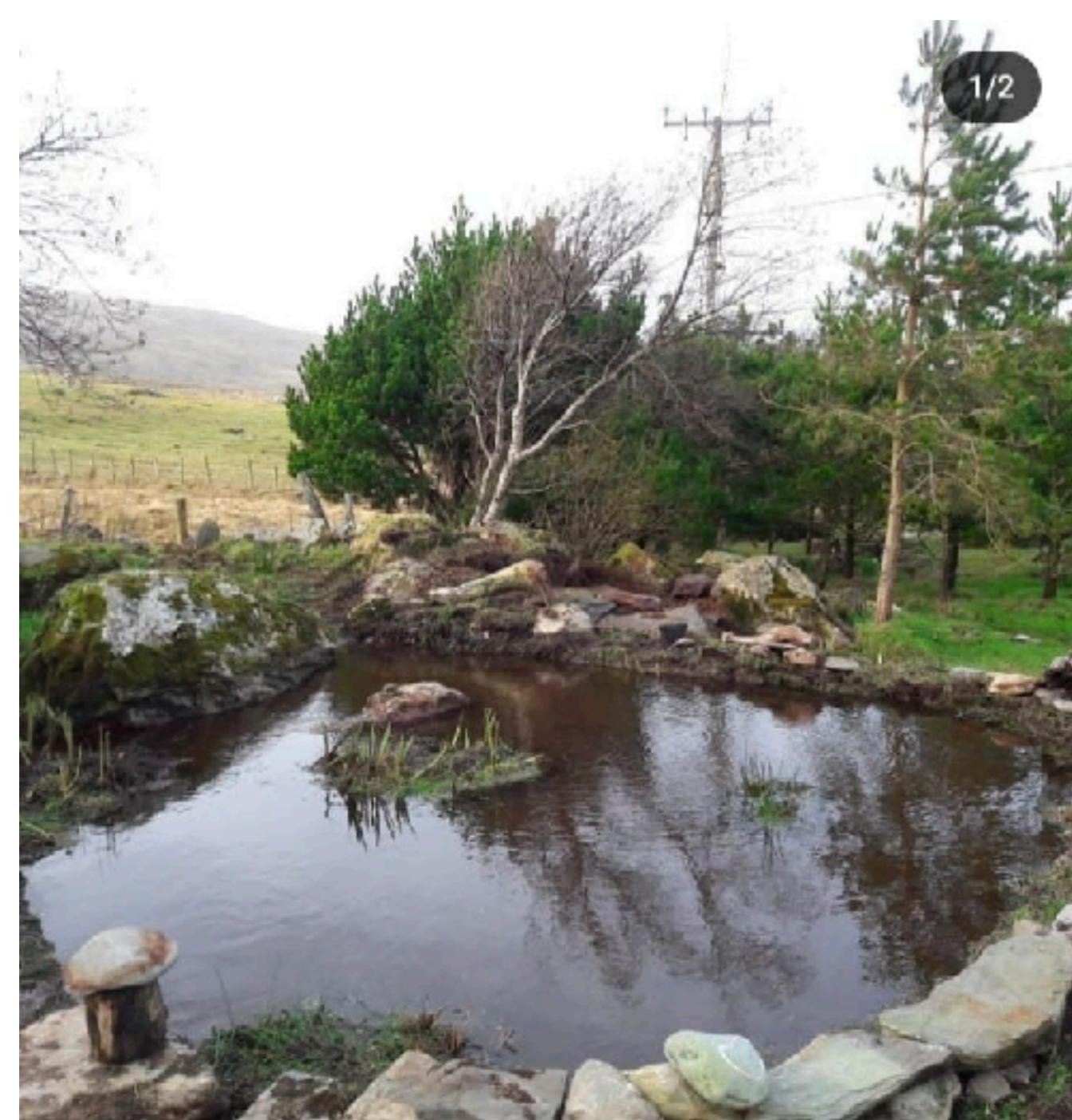
Tips and tricks:

- Rake the leaves in late autumn



Wendy Woo

1/2



Will Williams

Donegal (2016)

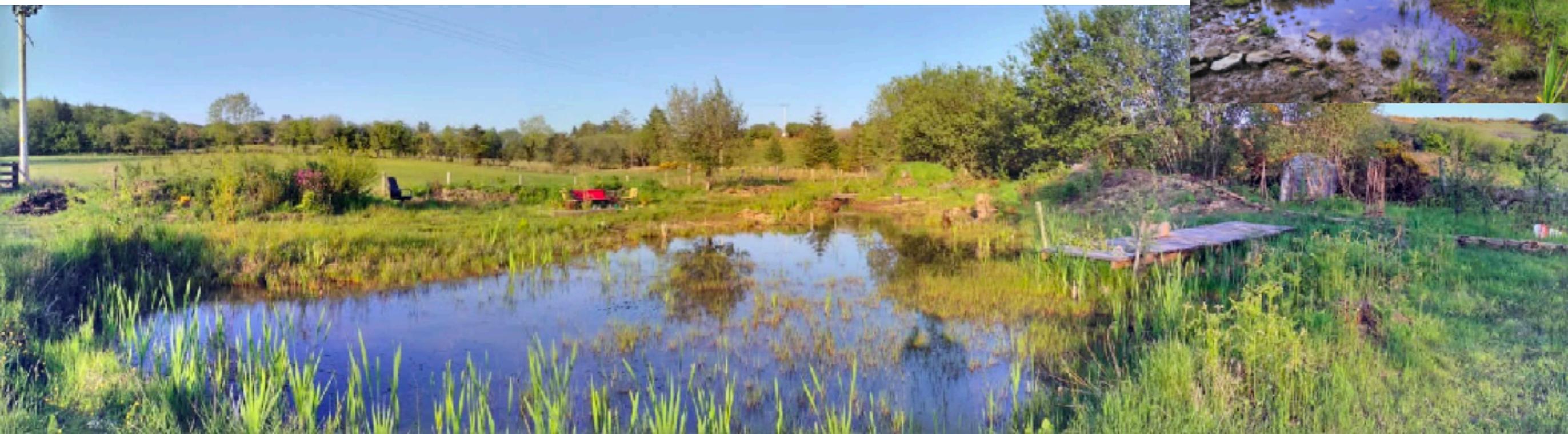
Originally meant to be a 2 × 3m pond it ended up being a 15 × 30m (!) It took about 8 hours of digging. No plastic lining. Filled up naturally in about two days, it has never dried out.

The excavated material was formed into 2m high banks about 3 m from the edge of the pond in 4 locations around the pond. Eventually needed an overflow channel.

Planted with Reed Mace which was growing locally and other wetland plants growing on the land. Others came in naturally. Big mistake was adding some Canadian pond weed that expanded rapidly and was taken out a few months later.

The banks were planted with bare root natives and a wild flower mix.

Frogs colonized within a few weeks. The first summer they had 3 species of pond beetle and 2 types of dragonfly.



Gareth Lewis

Askillaun (2024)

A series of “mini ponds” on the hill in Askillaun, just dug. No lining. The ponds are shallow, about a spade deep. The area was naturally wet and ponds were filled in a couple of hours. He expects for the ponds to dry in summer but serve as intermittent habitat. He’s not planning on planting them, but leave them to be colonized naturally.



**Tommy Coyne,
Kilsallagh**



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Kilsallagh**



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Kilsallagh**



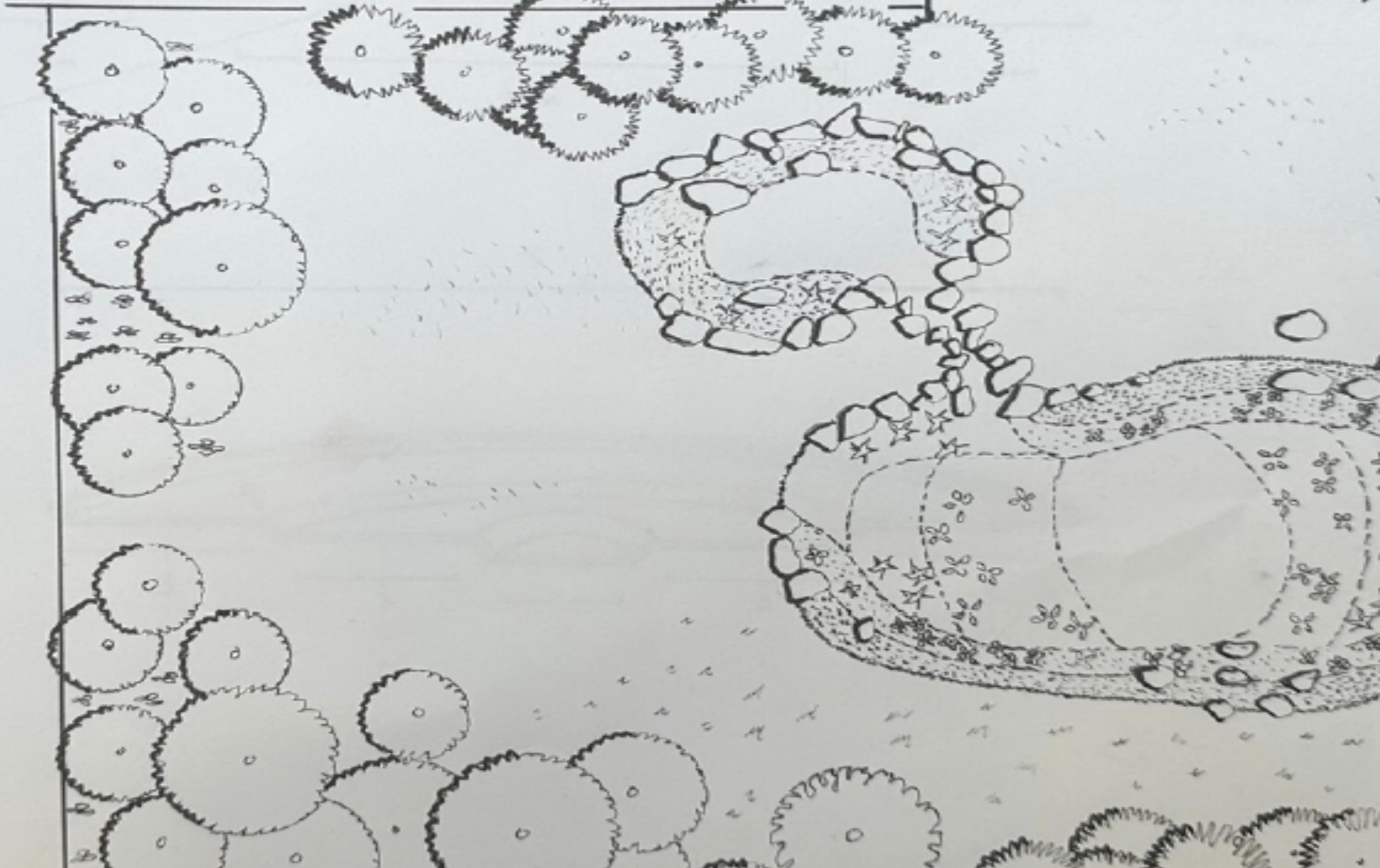
Teagasc Athenry Pond System

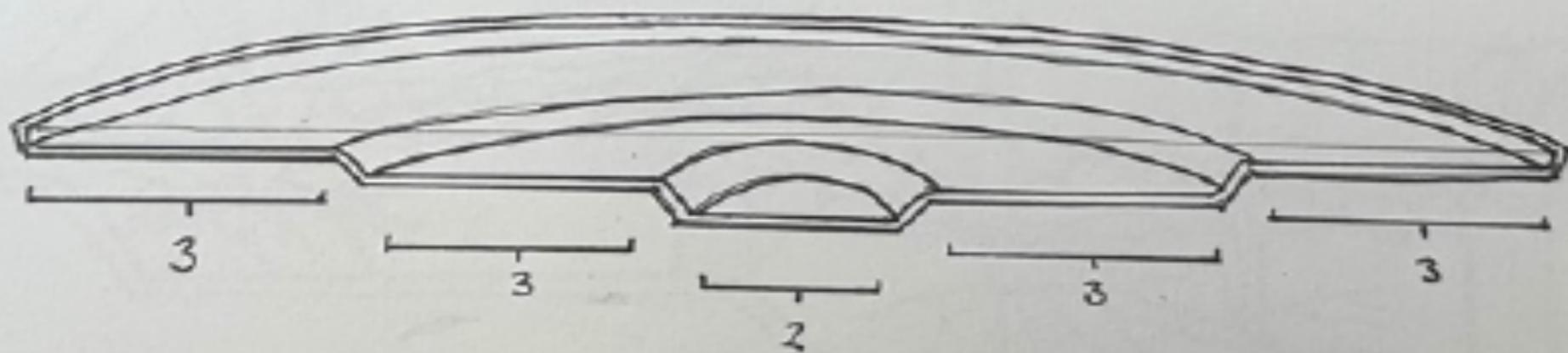
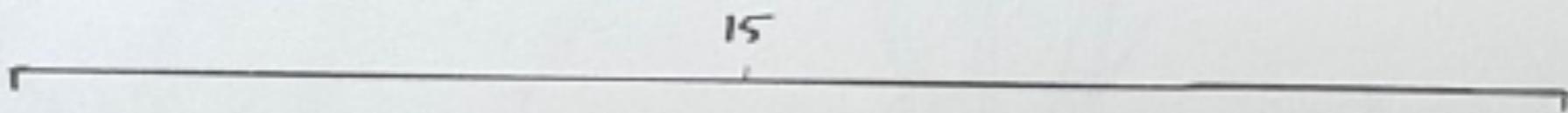
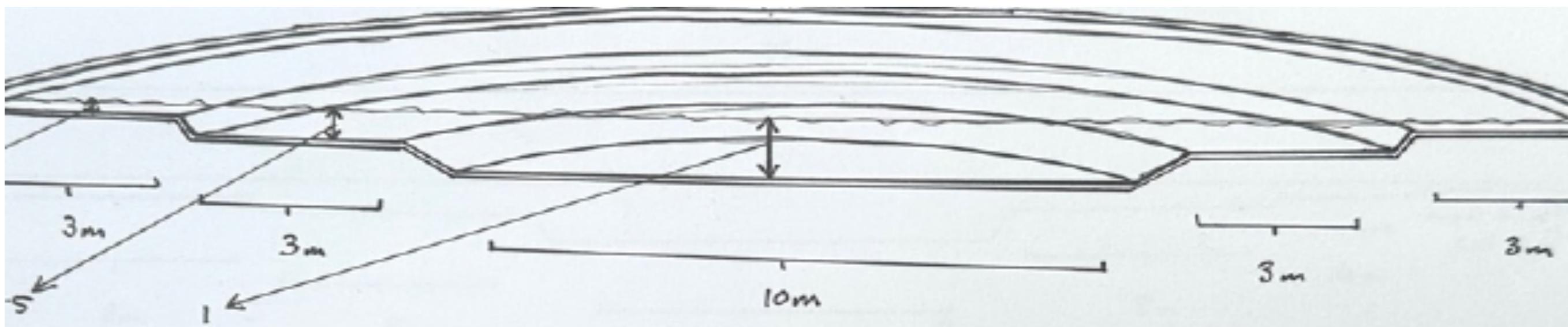
Alnus glutinosa

Woodland plants

Hogweed

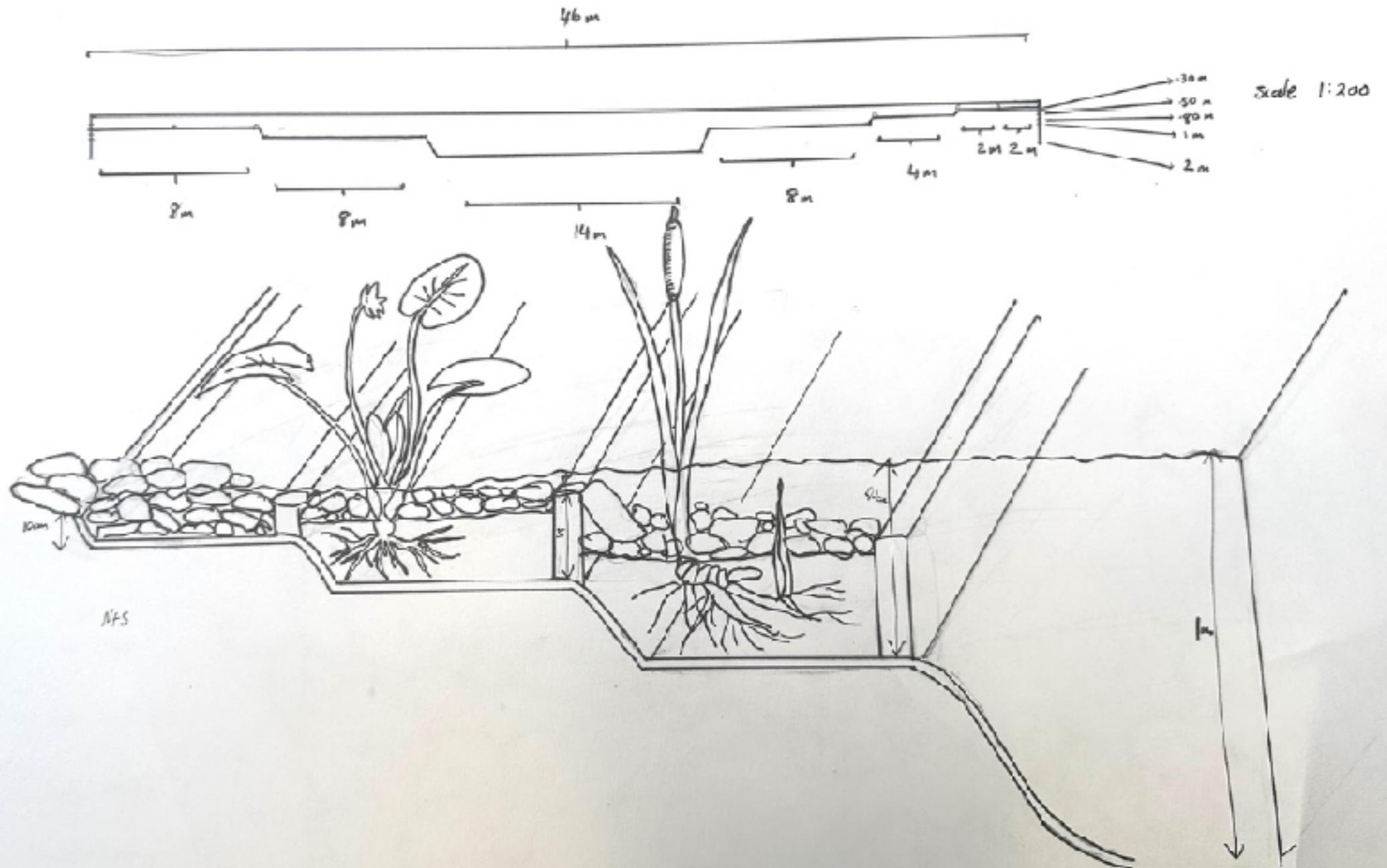
Heracleum sphondylium





Main Pond (Design 1)

length



- Teagasc Athenry Pond System for demo purposes: €62K

Benefits

- Rainwater harvest, storage and use
- Lower volume of run-off water in the main stormwater system
- Biodiversity
- Habitat creation
- Showcase wild native plants
- Showcase wildlife corridors
- Mental health
- Encourage wildlife
- Possible swim pond
- Showcase nutrient leaching buffer planting
- Showcase native tree species
- Showcase possible agroforestry designs, uses and benefits
- Showcase bird and bat boxes, and insect logs
- Showcase integrated constructed wetland design and planting
- Education and training
- Research (Carbon sequestration, biodiversity, environmental schemes, native flora and fauna habitats, integrated constructed wetlands, farming and nature, rural mental health, nutrient buffer plants etc.)

Pond Resources



The Wildlife Pond Book: Create Your Own Pond Paradise for Wildlife (The Wildlife Trusts) Paperback – 19 Sept. 2019

by Jules Howard (Author)

4.6 ★★★★★ 195 ratings

[See all formats and editions](#)

This friendly, practical guide includes everything you need to know to pick up a spade, put in a pond and help wildlife flourish right outside your back door.

Ponds are vital oases for nature. They are nursery grounds, feeding stops and bathing spots. They are genetic superhighways and vibrant ecosystems each brimming with life, interactions and potential. And they are for everyone.

In *The Wildlife Pond Book*, Jules Howard offers a fresh perspective on ponds and encourages gardeners to reach for a garden spade and do something positive to benefit our shared neighbourhood nature.

As well as offering practical tips and advice on designing, planting up and maintaining your pond, Jules encourages readers to explore the wildlife that colonises it with a torch, a microscope or a good old-fashioned pond-dipping net.

With a foreword by award-winning wildlife-gardening author, Kate Bradbury, this helpful new guide includes a section

[Read more](#)

Print length



160 pages

Language



English

Publisher



Bloomsbury
Wildlife

Publication date

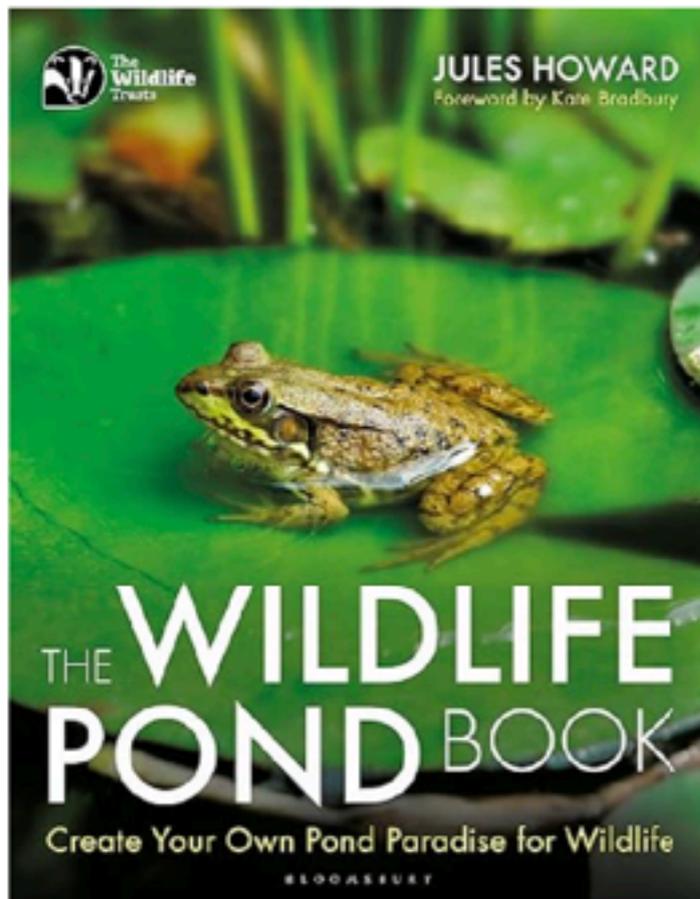


19 Sept. 2019

Dimensions

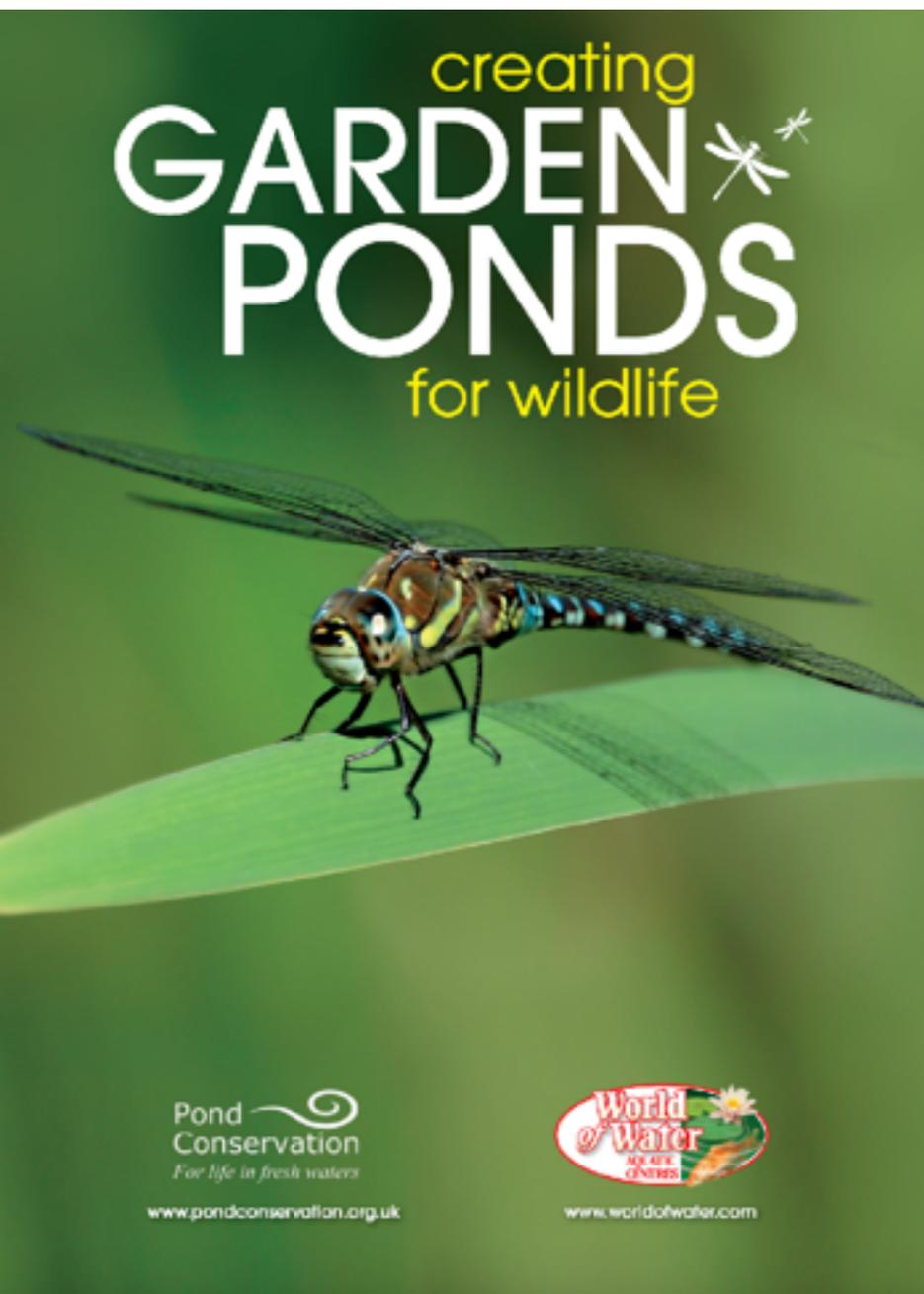


19.05 x 1.02 x
24.51 cm



Pond Conservation is the UK's national charity dedicated to protecting the wildlife of UK's freshwaters. They have a great publication, including creation, planting and troubleshooting

<https://content.freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/2013/09/Creating-Garden-Ponds-for-Wildlife.pdf?>



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Pond Conservation
For life in fresh waters



Pond Conservation is the UK's national charity dedicated to protecting the wildlife of our freshwaters: ponds, rivers, streams and lakes. We give advice, carry out research, promote practical action and lobby policy makers to ensure that freshwater wildlife and habitats have a secure future.
www.pondconservation.org.uk

This publication has been kindly sponsored by World of Water, the UK's leading water gardening specialist. For further information and your nearest store please visit www.worldofwater.com

Pond Conservation
For life in fresh waters
www.pondconservation.org.uk

World of Water
WORLD OF WATER
www.worldofwater.com



The Million Ponds Project (UK)

Intends to reverse a century of pond loss, ensuring that once again the UK has over one million countryside ponds.

This link has a toolkit with tons of detailed resources as listed on left

<https://freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/advice-resources/pond-creation-hub/pond-creation-toolkit/>