



Contacts

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust

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Derbyshire Wildlife Trust is a registered charity with more than 10,000 members supporting its work to protect the county's wildlife.

To find out how to join, visit our website or phone 01773 881188.

Ponds Conservation Trust

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www.pondstrust.org.uk

DEFRA

Rural Development Service
Block 7, Government Buildings
Chalfont Drive
Nottingham NG8 3SN

0115 929 1191

Further Information

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust (2002) *Habitat Creation Guide for Lowland Derbyshire*. Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Belper.

Williams et al (1999) *The Pond Book: a guide to the management and creation of ponds*. The Ponds Conservation Trust, Oxford.

The Ponds Conservation Trust also has the following factsheets available to download from its website:

Good Wildlife Ponds: A short guide to creating your own wildlife pond
Planting up Ponds: Dos and Don'ts of planting for a wildlife pond

This leaflet was produced as part of the Water for Wildlife Project, supported by Severn Trent Water.



Derbyshire Wildlife Trust



Creating a new pond is one of the easiest and most rewarding ways of creating a valuable wildlife habitat. More than 75% of British ponds were lost during the 20th century, yet ponds are important refuges for a bewildering variety of plants and animals.

By applying simple principles to their design and location, most new ponds will quickly develop into valuable wildlife habitats. Where well-planned and executed, the creation of new ponds can make an important contribution to the conservation of wetland wildlife.

creating ponds for wildlife



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Where should a new pond be located?

The most important factor in pond creation is water quality. It is best to avoid inflow ditches and low-lying areas which collect lots of surface run-off as this may result in a build up of nutrients and a reduction in water quality.

Springs and groundwater are sources of good quality water, but existing flushes and marshes should not be dug out, as they are already valuable wildlife habitats.

Where possible, create new ponds *close* to existing wetlands but *don't dig up existing wet areas* to make new ponds. Leaving a buffer zone around the perimeter will also increase the quality of water entering the pond.

It is best to avoid digging new ponds near to overhanging trees, as the shed leaves will increase the rate at which the pond silts up.

Design principles

Design ponds with natural wetlands in mind: create pond mosaics and wetland complexes rather than single isolated water bodies. Make a particular effort to include very shallow areas, with a depth of no more than 20cm.

The most important part of a pond is the edge habitat, so maximise the drawdown zone. Most slopes at the edge of the pond should be *very* shallow: a gentle slope is 2cm every 1m. Typical pond margins are much too steep. If necessary, dig down more steeply at the very outer edge of the site to get the whole area nearer to the water table and then create a broad flat drawdown zone at the water's edge.

An extensive drawdown zone will also reduce the risk of anyone accidentally falling into deeper water.

Unless your main aim is to encourage nesting ducks and geese, avoid islands: these block views for people and quickly become wooded. Large wildfowl populations on ponds often reduce their value for other wildlife.

Expect to take time. Pond creation is best considered as a two stage process, with fine-tuning of the structure of the drawdown zone and the margins 1-2 years after the first construction phase.

Do I need to line a new pond?

Garden ponds and ponds in school grounds will usually need to be lined.

For larger ponds, it is preferable to create them where they can be dug into soils that naturally retain water, such as groundwater-bearing gravels or clay.

'Natural' ponds are far easier and cheaper to create than those using artificial liners or puddled clay. If it is necessary to line a pond, advice on the four main types of lining (plastic, clay, bentonite or concrete) can be obtained from the manufacturers.

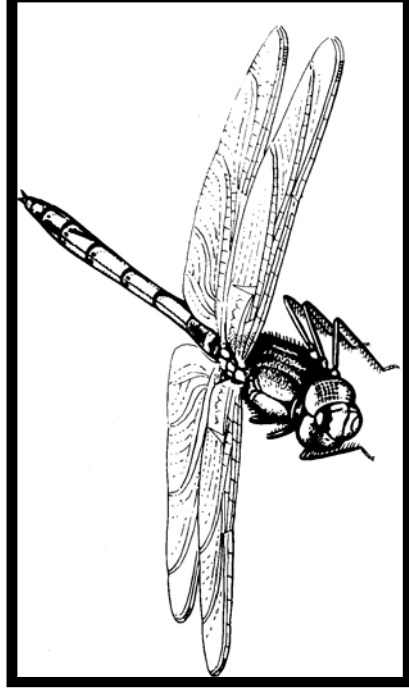
Should plants be introduced to a new pond?

A well constructed pond will soon colonise naturally and it is preferable to allow this to happen with your pond rather than planting it up. If you do choose to plant up your pond, only native species should be planted, from sources that can guarantee local provenance.

Do I need approval?

Planning consent may be required for the creation of new ponds, particularly if excavated material is to be removed from the site.

Consent may also be required from the Environment Agency.



Can I get help, advice or a grant?

Yes. Derbyshire Wildlife Trust should be your first point of contact. We can give advice on location and design of new ponds. You should also talk to the Environment Agency, whose local conservation officers will be able to help with any consents you may need.

Grants may be available from your local authority and also through DEFRA's agri environment schemes, which provide grants as part of whole farm conservation schemes. BTCV, a voluntary conservation organisation that undertakes practical conservation work, may be able to help with pond work.