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# Clean Water for Wildlife

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**... is a community survey which aims to find wildlife rich, clean water habitats in England and Wales. Take part to find out whether the ponds, streams and rivers in your neighbourhood are really good enough for wildlife.**



Most freshwater plants and animals evolved over millions of years in a world where the natural level of nutrients in ponds, lakes, streams and rivers was very low. When more nutrients are added to the freshwater environment this can cause profound changes and the freshwater wildlife struggle to adapt.

We define 'clean water' as that which has a chemistry and biology which would be normal for a given area in the absence of human disturbance. This is commonly referred to as the reference condition, minimally impaired water quality or natural background levels.

Sadly, it only takes a little pollution to damage habitats like streams and ponds, and to harm the most sensitive plants and animals that call these places home. When 'clean water' is lost, we risk losing this variety and richness of life.

With your help, the Clean Water for Wildlife survey aims to find the hidden gems – places which are free from pollution and where wildlife still thrives. The survey also aims to discover for the first time, the true extent of nutrient pollution facing freshwater wildlife today.



## Million Ponds Project

The Million Ponds Project is a national partnership initiative to protect our freshwater wildlife by creating a new network of clean waterbodies across the UK.

[Find out more >](#)

## River Thame Catchment Project

The River Thame Catchment Project is working with local landowners to improve the quality of the River Thame and its tributaries.

[Find out more >](#)

Until recently it has been difficult to discover the level of nutrients in any individual waterbody without expensive laboratory analysis. Newly developed rapid water-testing kits are much quicker, simpler and more accurate than in the past, making it possible for most people to 'see' the pollution for the first time.

With funding from the People, Ponds and Water HLF funded project, we are able to provide free Packtest kits: focusing on recording the two of the most widespread and damaging nutrient pollutants: nitrate and phosphate.

**Clean Water for Wildlife** is a citizen science survey that aims to raise awareness of the true extent of nutrient pollution, and identify clean water habitats in England and Wales, with the ultimate aim of helping to protect biodiversity.

See how easy it is to complete the Clean Water survey by checking out our YouTube video [here](#)

Whilst we wait for WaterNet to get up and running, please email your Clean Water records to: [peoplepondswater@freshwaterhabitats.org.uk](mailto:peoplepondswater@freshwaterhabitats.org.uk)

## Advice Centre

See our frequently asked questions here.

[Find out more >](#)

## Donate now

Make a donation today and turn your pounds into ponds.

Just £10 will support our work to create and protect ponds through practical action, lobbying, research and advice. You can make a donation online with your credit or debit card.

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Your email address \*

Are you interested in volunteering for us?

- Yes  
 No

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## Contact us

### General enquiries

Looking for more information about our work or need advice on ponds? Please contact us at [info@freshwaterhabitats.org.uk](mailto:info@freshwaterhabitats.org.uk) or call [01865 595 505](tel:01865 595 505).

### Media

For media enquiries please contact Dr Jeremy Biggs on [01865 595 506](tel:01865 595 506) or our Oxford office on [01865 595 505](tel:01865 595 505).