

# Pond management: Protecting and creating freshwater habitats



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# Why are ponds and other freshwaters so important?



**The Fowl's Pill, Otmoor, Oxfordshire April 2011**



**Globally about 10% of all species are found in freshwater in 2% of earth's surface**

**[Note: there are thought to be as many species in freshwater as in the sea, which occupies 70% of earth]**

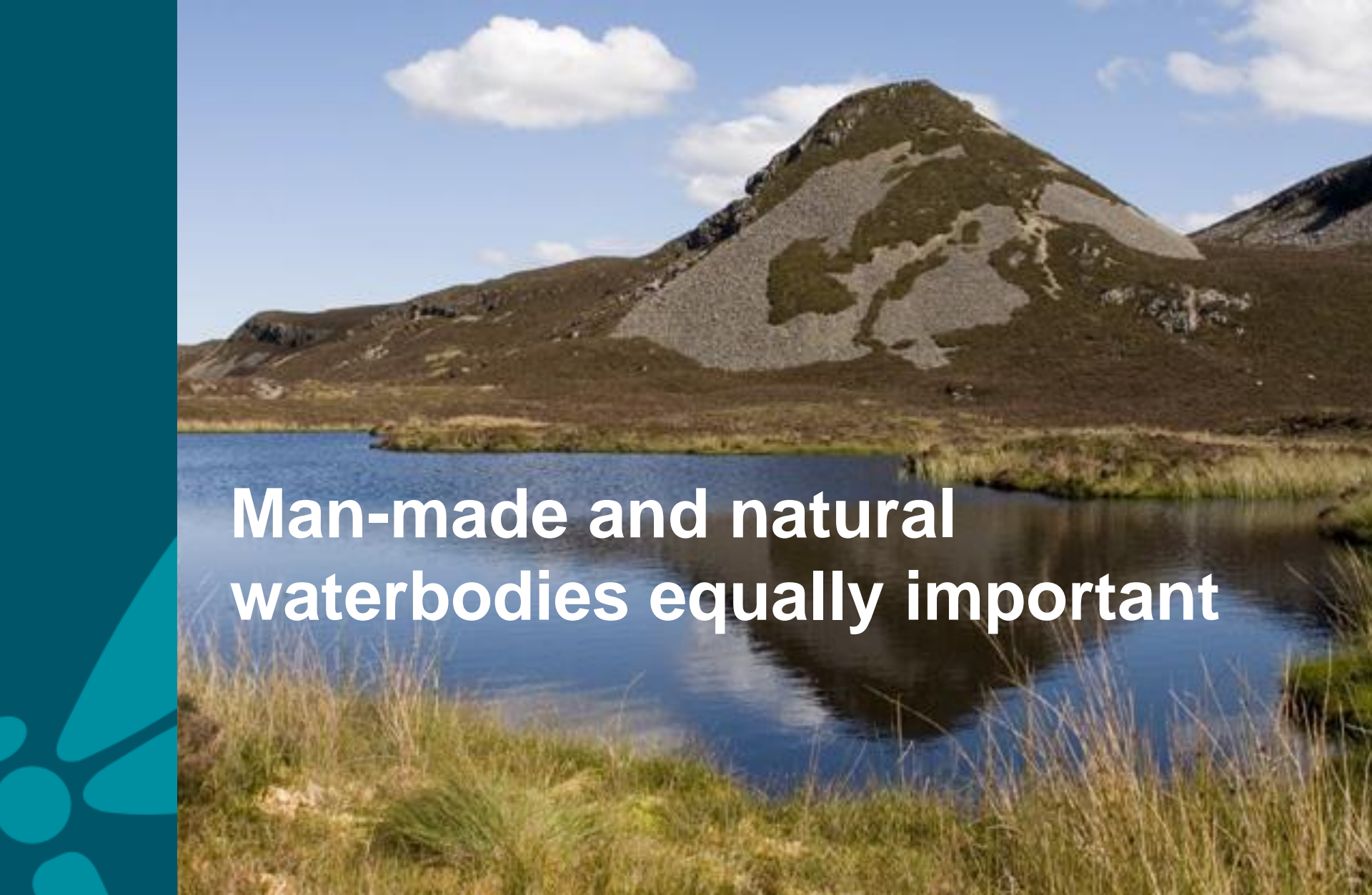
**Ditches include some of our finest freshwater ecosystems: Humberhead Levels, near Doncaster**



**Small waterbodies make up the vast majority of freshwaters**

**They are the least monitored, protected and studied**

**Bog pools in the Scottish Highlands**



**Man-made and natural  
waterbodies equally important**

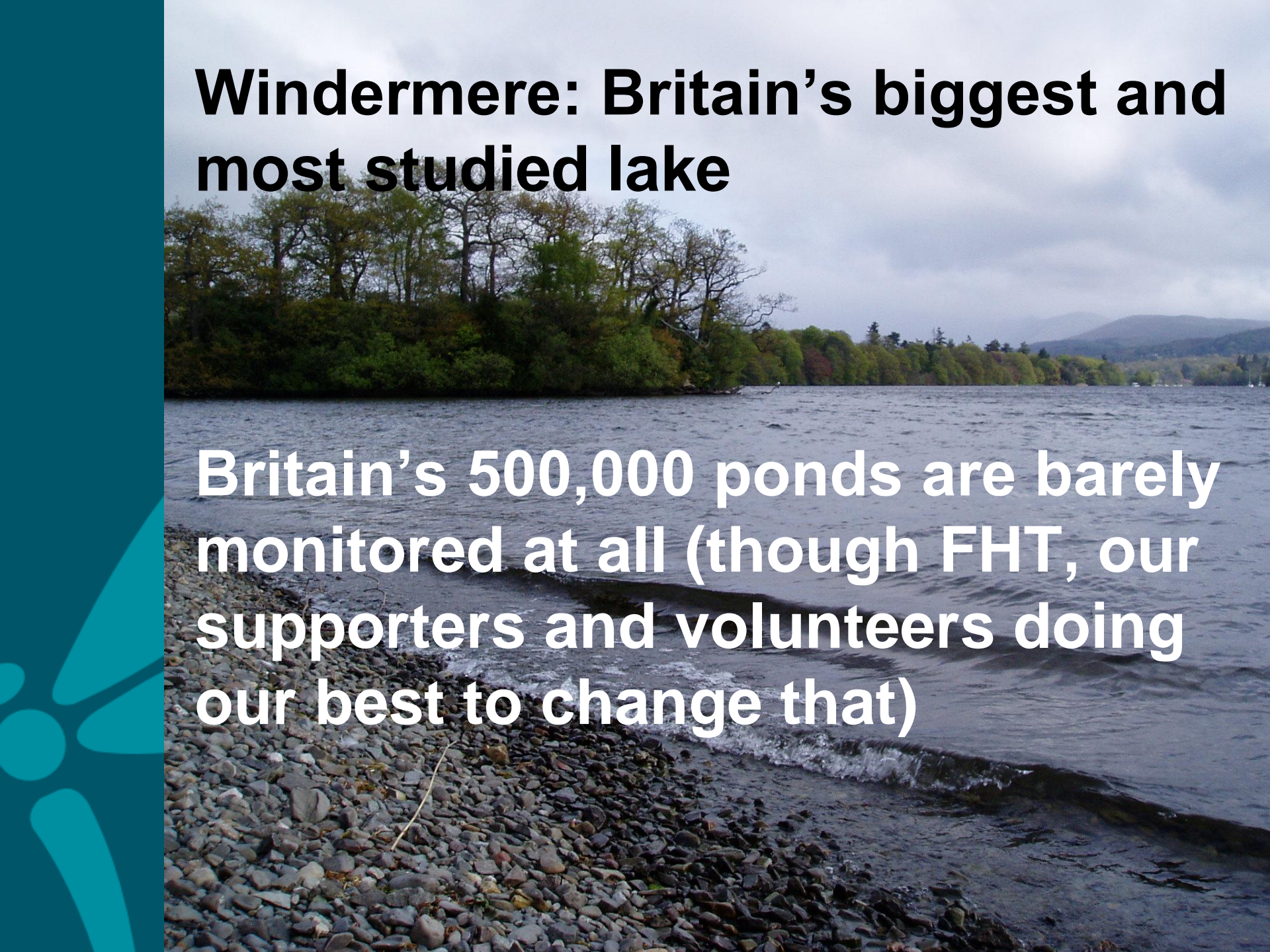
**Llyn Bryn-du, Snowdonia National Park (area: 0.5 ha)**

**Big waterbodies get all the attention – but we need to protect small and large**

**R. Thames near Reading**

# **Windermere: Britain's biggest and most studied lake**

**Britain's 500,000 ponds are barely monitored at all (though FHT, our supporters and volunteers doing our best to change that)**



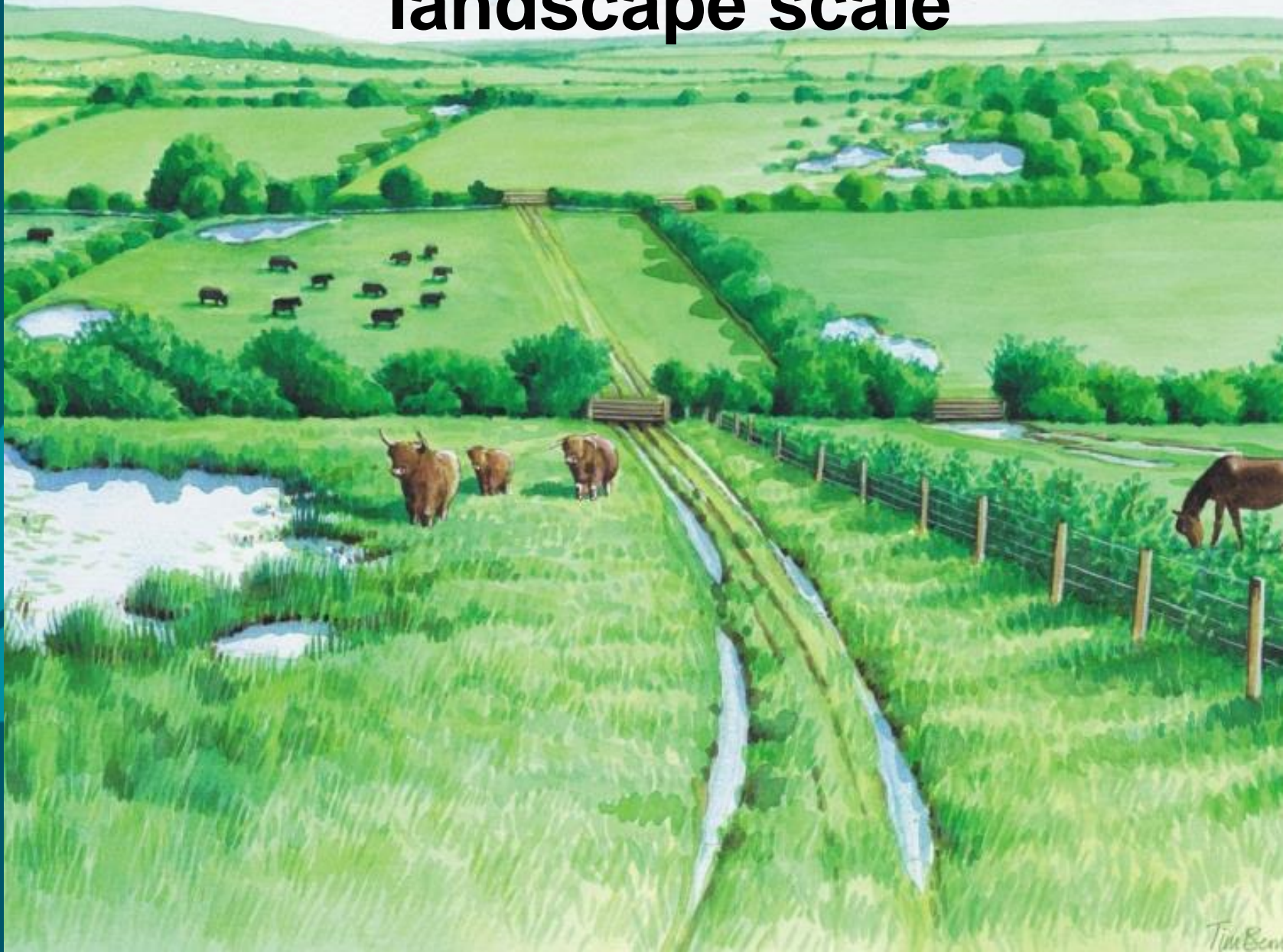
A photograph of a pond with lily pads and a rocky shoreline under a blue sky. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

# Components of an effective pond management plan

**Natural kettle hole pond (1.3 ha): Llyn yr Wyth-Eidion, Anglesey (photo: Tristan Hatton-Ellis)**



# Think about ponds at a landscape scale



**Have you got clean water?**



**If you don't have clean water, make new ponds**



# If you have lots of plants.....

**Try to keep it that way, and also graze gently**



**Cock Marsh on the Thames near Maidenhead, one of Britain's finest ponds**



**How can we monitor key species  
and pond quality?**

**Pond on Pinkhill  
Meadow, Oxfordshire**

# How can we monitor key species and pond quality?

**Environmental  
DNA for great  
crested newts**



# Rapid water quality tests with volunteers

Sheet 1



## Clean Water for Wildlife Student Pack

Are the ponds, streams and rivers in your neighbourhood clean enough for wildlife?  
Join in with our schools and communities survey and find out.

Freshwater wildlife needs clean unpolluted water to survive. Sadly, it only takes a little nutrient pollution to damage habitats like streams and ponds, and to harm the most sensitive plants and animals that call these places home.

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

### Summary steps . . .

- **Record your location.** Identify where you are going to do the survey and mark it on a map.
- **Collect a water sample** from a local pond, lake, river, stream or ditch, your garden or your tap water.
- **Predict the results from your site.** Will it have high, medium or low levels of nutrients? Where does the water come from?
- **Use the nutrient test kits** to reveal the levels of nitrate and phosphate pollution. Were they what you expected? If not, why do you think they were different?
- **Enter your results online** through WaterNet and contribute to our national survey,



Clean Water for Wildlife is one of three projects within Freshwater Habitats Trust's People, Ponds and Water Project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Thames Water.



LOTTERY FUNDED

# Standard pond survey methods

