



This is the fourth in a series of leaflets for sharing across Shropshire's Town and Parish councils

Please collect them and use them as a resource for your household and Parish.

We hope you enjoy the information designed to help with Nature Recovery across our beautiful county.

Since 1900 there has been an estimated total loss of over 50% of the UK's ponds

80% of those that remain are in a poor state and given that 2/3 of all freshwater species are supported by pond habitats this is a significant loss.

A wildlife pond is one of the single best features for attracting new wildlife

Whether found in a garden or part of an agricultural landscape, ponds are oases of wildlife worth investigating. Even small ponds can support a wealth of species and collectively, ponds play a key role in supporting freshwater wildlife.

The world's frog, toad, salamander and newt populations are disappearing at an alarming rate. The reason for this is the loss of their natural wetland habitats and climate change.

However you can make a difference!

“Amphibians are the lifeblood of many environments, playing key roles in the functions of ecosystems, and it is both extraordinary and terrifying that in just a few decades the world could lose half of all these species”

Sir David Attenborough

In the past, every village had a pond

Farmers who had no rivers nearby dug ditches joining the rivers in a broad network, which allowed plants and animals to spread. However, ditches are now often neglected and allowed to dry up and farmers prefer to use piped water.

This leaves the countryside a drier place where water-loving wildlife can struggle to find a home.

Wetlands have been around for millions of years and, during this time, many species of plants and animals have become adapted to the conditions that ponds provide. NB Ponds tend to be man made, needed before there was piped water.





Where to start when creating a new pond

You can build a pond at any time during the year, but if you start in autumn or late winter, it will become established much quicker.

The best ponds for wildlife have shallow margins with a fringe of vegetation and nearby plant cover for amphibians and insects with terrestrial life stages.

Creating a bog garden

If you already have a soggy, permanently damp patch in your garden, or would like to create a bog garden at the edge of a pond, these can also be a valuable habitat.

They may be also be preferable to families with young children. Like a pond, a bog garden should attract frogs, toads and with taller grasses included, bees, butterflies and dragonflies

Further information:

To find out how to create a bog garden: www.shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/actions/how-make-bog-garden

For a guide about creating a small container pond:

www.shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/actions/how-create-mini-pond

Download a free Wildlife Trust booklet:

www.wildaboutgardens.org.uk/sites/default/files/2022-03/190212%20WAG%20Booklet_new%20logo%20web.pdf

Freshwater Habitats Trust

<https://freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/projects/million-ponds/pond-creation-toolkit>

Build a wildlife pond

www.youtube.com/watch?v=56bacePG8hA

Wildlife Trusts

www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-build-pond

Shropshire Wildlife Trust – Ponds

www.shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/habitats/freshwater/ponds

Monty Don

www.youtube.com/watch?v=anbXx-LX8Gc

The Young People's Trust for the Environment (YPTE)

<https://yppte.org.uk/factsheets/ponds/ponds-past-and-present>