

Become a Friend for Freshwater

I wish to pay: monthly (suggested donation is £5) yearly one off gift

Title: Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Tel. number: E-mail:



Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit



To the Manager (name of Bank/Building society)

Address

Postcode

Name of Account holder

Branch Sort Code Bank/Building Society Account Number

Please pay Freshwater Habitats Trust Direct Debits from the account detailed in this Instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee.

Signed Date

Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions from some types of account.

Originator No.: 249358 For office use only, DD reference: _____

The Direct Debit Guarantee : This Guarantee is offered by all Banks and Building Societies that take part in the Direct Debit Scheme. The efficiency and security of the Scheme is monitored and protected by your own Bank or Building Society. If the amounts to be paid or the payment dates change, Freshwater Habitats Trust will notify you 14 working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed. If an error is made by Freshwater Habitats Trust or your Bank or Building Society, you are guaranteed to a full and immediate refund from your branch of the amount paid. You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by writing to your Bank or Building Society. Please also send a copy of your letter to us.

Gift Aid - If you are a UK tax payer, we can reclaim the tax on donations increasing the amount by 25%.

I am a UK taxpayer and I wish the Freshwater Habitats Trust to reclaim tax on my donation.

By ticking the gift aid box and signing this form you are confirming you pay an amount of UK income or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax Freshwater Habitats Trust will claim and that they should treat all gifts of money that I have made in the past 4 years and all future gifts of money that I make from the date of this declaration as Gift Aid donations. You must notify the charity if your tax status changes or you are no longer a UK taxpayer.

Signed Date

Please return to:
Freshwater Habitats Trust, c/o Faculty of Health & Life Sciences, Oxford Brookes University, Gypsy Lane, Headington, Oxford OX3 0BP



Fowl's Pill is one of a handful of places in Oxfordshire where water-violet still survives.

Get involved

We want to increase people's involvement with freshwater by increasing contact and experience with the habitats: close to home through garden wildlife pond creation, and in the countryside itself.

We will help people get greater understanding and appreciation of freshwaters: through projects like our Clean Water Survey and more broadly, through involvement in local catchment management decision-making.

And there's lots of ways you can help support our work, without even getting your feet wet!



THREE-SPINED STICKLEBACK

How you can get involved

- **Become a Friend for Freshwater** and make a regular gift.
- **Get your company involved:** Make a gift, become a corporate member or hold a bespoke fundraising event.
- **Become a Freshwater Champion:** Sponsor our national projects, and/or help us develop local projects.
- **Spread the word:** Share our resources with your network and help others realise the importance of freshwater and the issues facing it. @pondriverstream.
- **Make it happen:** Create clean water ponds on your land or review the management of freshwaters on the land you own or manage.
- **Give your time:** Get involved with our citizen science activities.
- **Big it up -** take part in one of our annual surveys: Big Pond Dip, Big Spawn Count, Big Thaw.
- **Give us your email:** sign up on-line to our monthly e-update, Ripples.



Freshwater wildlife needs YOU

Volunteer, donate, create



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The Freshwater Habitats Trust



Freshwaters – our ponds, streams, rivers and lakes, and the animals and plants that live in them – are just about the most threatened part of the natural world.

From headwater streams down to the sea, and from tiny ponds to great lakes, a shockingly large proportion of our freshwaters is damaged by pollution. We pump millions of gallons of treated sewage effluents into rivers, and there's barely a pond or stream that escapes the contaminated water running off from roads, towns and farmland. No longer can we take the diversity of life in water for granted.

More than ever we need concerted and effective practical action to protect these fragile habitats. Already most people rarely see clean, natural and beautiful water that's really safe to paddle and splash in, as well as being rich in wildlife. We want to change this, with your help.



MALE SMOOTH NEWT © NEIL PHILLIPS



92% of all ponds are damaged biologically – plant richness in ponds has declined by 20% in the last decade



What makes the Freshwater Habitats Trust different?

We care about all freshwaters – both big and small. Whether it's a tiny pond or a big lake, we use evidence to decide what needs protecting, and how to do it.

There are also a lot of things we won't do – even though they're popular – because there's no evidence they work. If there's no evidence protection measures work they are simply money poured down the drain.

We won't be subject to the whims of government funding. We decide our priorities on the basis of the evidence, and stick to them.

Whenever possible we work together with others: it saves money, helps everyone do better work and teaches us new things.

Above all, we aim to make a difference.

87% of headwater streams east of a line from the Humber to the Dorset coast are biologically degraded

Making a difference on the ground

Our main aim is to make a difference on the ground because we want freshwater life to thrive for everyone to enjoy. Our practical projects are targeted on the places that evidence shows will bring the greatest benefits for freshwater life at regional and UK scale.

We've specialised on ponds up to now but it's always been our conviction that working on a single habitat type was the wrong way to protect freshwater wildlife. Now our practical projects are encompassing all freshwaters across the landscape: but because the challenges are greater we're starting out experimentally. It's much harder to clean up rivers and streams and – short of stopping farming and never flushing the toilet again – the solutions are much less clear-cut. So our work to date has focused on finding out what works, and what are the most important places to protect.



The Million Ponds Project

Because clean water ponds have an exceptional biodiversity value we launched the Million Ponds Project in 2008.

This partnership project with major land managing and environmental organisations has already directly funded the creation of a network of over 1000 clean water ponds to support the UK's most threatened species, with partners constructing several thousand more. Now, the official target is to make 30,000 more ponds by 2020.

The project was selected as one of the case studies for the Government's Natural Environment White Paper, published in June 2011.

Research and policy

All our work is underpinned by research – we only do things which, based on good evidence, are likely to be successful. If techniques are untried we always make sure we monitor them to find out whether they work or not. And we do that research ourselves whenever possible – because to make sure research answers the right questions you need to understand the practical issues.

Traditionally, research on freshwaters worldwide has focused almost exclusively on rivers and lakes. The most numerous waterbodies – ponds, ditches, flushes, small headwater streams – were more or less ignored.

As a result, their conservation was also ignored. Since our organisation's establishment in 1988, we have helped to change this focus: providing the scientific foundation that proves how important small waters are for freshwater biodiversity.

We continue to undertake research projects that are both strategic and policy driven: including identifying Important Freshwater Areas, how freshwaters contribute to carbon capture, the effectiveness of agri-environment schemes, the use of small wetland features to address water quality issues, and monitoring freshwater biodiversity and water quality using new volunteer networks.

We are currently working to increase the status and protection of small waterbodies within European legislation such as the Water Framework Directive.



Water Friendly Farming

In the Water Friendly Farming project, we assessed which waterbodies supported most wetland plant species across the landscape in 3 catchments.

Ponds were strikingly the richest part of the water environment with 85% of all wetland plant species.

