

Become a Friend for Freshwater

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



To the Manager (name of Bank/Building society)

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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.

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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, Bury Knowle House, North Place, Headington, Oxford, OX3 9HY

Cover photography: Sun kissed sundews ©Naomi Ewald; Boy ©Rachel Hudson (butterflytrack.co.uk); Bottom left ©Tim Parkin; Frog ©Julia Page



Protecting Freshwater Life for Everyone to Enjoy



www.freshwaterhabitats.org.uk

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Water can turn a landscape from humdrum to magical. *Clean water can make it utterly marvellous.*



There are corners of our countryside where ponds and streams bloom and buzz, where ditches and fens shimmer with almost unimaginable beauty. What connects them all is clean water. As these havens become rarer and clean water harder to find, freshwater plants and animals disappear and life becomes irrevocably poorer - for everyone. The figures make for difficult reading: three-quarters of rivers and nine out of ten ponds in the UK are damaged by pollution, making freshwater wildlife one of the most threatened parts of the natural world.

We want to change this, with your help.



A host of vulnerable species like the Water-violet are now extinct in many areas of lowland England - Fowl's Pill is one of a handful of places in Oxfordshire where Water-violet still survives.

What we do

Freshwater Habitats Trust works in three main areas:

Research to gather evidence and further knowledge on freshwater protection.

Policy to push for much needed change in conservation practices in UK and Europe.

Practical Projects to protect endangered freshwater wildlife in the UK, while at the same time raising awareness and encouraging participation from local communities.



The Water Vole has suffered a severe decline over the past decade.

Why support us?

Experience Our team of leading ecologists have been working to protect freshwaters in the UK for over 25 years - so we know what we are talking about!

Focus We are the only organisation in the UK dedicated solely to the protection of freshwater wildlife. We focus on the small overlooked habitats, like ponds and headwaters, where their size belies their importance.

Innovation We are pioneers in the field of freshwater research, developing new environmental techniques that are employed by organisations far and wide

Impact We only do things that are based on sound scientific evidence and that are likely to make a significant difference to freshwater wildlife.

Photography: Main image ©Evan Jones, Water Vole ©Jo Cartmell.

Research & Policy

Traditionally, research on freshwaters has focused on rivers and lakes. The most abundant waterbodies - ponds, small lakes and headwater streams, which are home to a great variety of endangered species - were more or less ignored. As a result, their conservation was also ignored.

FHT research has helped to change this focus, providing the scientific foundation which shows that we need to look after all kinds of freshwater, small and large, to save wildlife.

Today, the UK Government's policy on freshwater conservation is beginning to recognise the importance of small water bodies.

Water Friendly Farming

Farming is one of the main contributors to water pollution in the UK and we want to find effective ways to reduce it. In Water Friendly Farming, we are working together with farmers to determine how effective measures to control water pollution in farmed landscapes actually are. The project is the largest scheme of its kind and was launched in 2010 in conjunction with the Universities of York and Sheffield. It is set in rural Leicestershire, where our team is simulating and assessing pollution control measures, such as buffer strips, ditches and artificial dams, currently used in farms across the UK. The lessons we learn will influence land management practices in the UK and Europe, improving the condition of freshwater habitats.



Barkby stream - one of the Water Friendly Farming project sites in Leicestershire

Even small changes in government policy can bring huge benefits for wildlife, but to change policy you need evidence. So, together with partners such as some of the UK's leading universities, we lead research to answer critical conservation policy questions.

Our current research projects include:

- Finding out the best ways to decrease freshwater pollution in farmed landscapes
- Identifying Important Freshwater Areas so that conservation efforts can be focused in key areas
- Monitoring freshwater biodiversity and water quality across the UK

Practical Projects

We have some wonderful freshwater sites throughout the country. Our practical projects are designed to protect and, where possible, increase these beautiful places. We work with local communities as much as possible in our projects, giving people the chance to experience and enjoy magical freshwater sites in England and Wales as much as we do.



Million Ponds Project

We launched the Million Ponds Project in 2008 to start putting clean water back into the landscape. We kick-started this 50 year initiative by supporting land managing and environmental organisations to create over 1000 clean water ponds for the UK's most threatened species, with partners constructing several thousand more. The next stage is to make 30,000 more ponds by 2020. Eventually the UK will have once again have one million ponds, a thriving network of beautifully rich freshwater habitats.



People, Ponds and Water

People, Ponds and Water launched in 2015 to engage 10,000 people across the UK, from all ages and backgrounds, in practical activities to protect our freshwater heritage.

Volunteers are helping to manage some of our most important freshwater sites, collecting information about trends in rare freshwater plants and animals, and helping to gather water pollution data on a national scale.

People, Ponds and Water will provide much-needed information about the condition of freshwater wildlife in the UK while encouraging widespread public engagement in environmental conservation at the same time!



Species Protection

The delicate and particular Glutinous Snail is our rarest aquatic snail. Any changes to the single lake it calls home could make it extinct in the UK. We are working with partners on a backup plan to ensure we don't lose it: a small captive breeding population is being nurtured; giving us an insight into its life, and animals to release back into the wild should the worst happen.



Photography: Glutinous Snail ©Roy Anderson

How can you help

The pressures on freshwater wildlife are huge but, together, there is a lot we can accomplish to protect it. We would be delighted if you would stand with us.



Make a donation:

We are grateful for all donations, large or small. If you are able to make a Regular Gift this is especially valuable, as it allows us to better predict our income and plan effectively for the longer term. You can make a donation by completing the form overleaf or online at www.freshwaterhabitats.org.uk

Get your company involved:

We work with a number of local, national and international companies who support our commitment to environmental protection. If you'd like to know more about how your company can get involved please email info@freshwaterhabitats.org.uk or call us on 01865 595 505 for an informal discussion.



Volunteer with us:

We are always looking for an extra pair of hands to help with our survey and monitoring work in England and Wales. No matter your experience, we'd love to hear from you. Just drop us a line on info@freshwaterhabitats.org.uk or call us on 01865 595 505.



Thank You

