

Become a Friend for Freshwater

We hope that you've enjoyed taking part in the Clean Water for Wildlife survey. We are hugely grateful for your time and support for the project. **There is no need for you to fill in any information below to take part in Clean Water for Wildlife.** However, we would be delighted if you would like to support our wider work to protect freshwater wildlife, and ensure people have opportunities to enjoy these wonderful places. We have achieved a lot so far and your support will make a significant difference to what we can achieve in the next few years

I wish to pay:	<input type="text"/>	monthly (suggested donation is £5)	<input type="text"/>	yearly	<input type="text"/>	one off gift
Title:	<input type="text"/>					
Name:	<input type="text"/>					
Address:	<input type="text"/>					
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Postcode:	<input type="text"/>					
Tel. number:	<input type="text"/>					
E-mail:	<input type="text"/>					

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

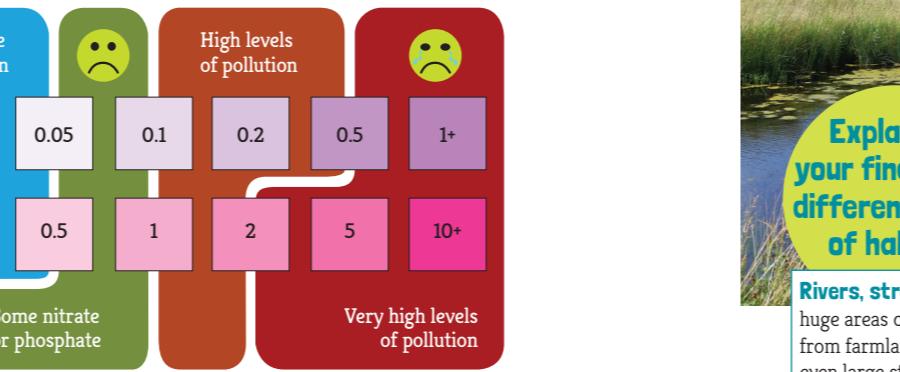
Please return to: Freshwater Habitats Trust, First Floor, Bury Knowle House, North Place, Headington, Oxford, OX3 9HY

Understanding your Clean Water for Wildlife results

Use the diagram and information on this page to help interpret the results from your kits.

Whatever you've found, please tell us about it. Your information is really important to help build a national picture of the levels of nutrient pollution in freshwaters.

See: freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/projects/people-ponds-water



No evidence of nutrient pollution.

Congratulations! You are likely to have found a fantastic clean water habitat.

Water that's not polluted by nutrients will show little or no colour change in either test. This is great news as many animals and plants, especially rare and endangered species, need to live in water that is naturally very low in nutrients.

We really want to find out about these sites as they could be amongst the very few remaining sites, the best of the best undamaged freshwaters in England and Wales.

This information will be valuable for monitoring site condition and making decisions about site management. The next step could be to undertake a biological survey to find out which species are present. Clean water sites often support rich and interesting wildlife communities.

AND FINALLY: Some places with very low nutrient levels, may still be affected by other issues which the kits do not detect. There's more information in our technical guide on the use and reliability of the kits - available on our website.

Evidence of some nutrient pollution.

Unfortunately you have found a site where the water is polluted by nutrients at levels that will be damaging to wildlife.

Polluted waters will still have some wildlife - but they won't have the wonderful richness of life, or rare species that live in clean water. At even these moderate levels of nutrient pollution more than half the animals and plants that should be present can be lost.

If this was your garden pond, make sure you're topping it up with rain water, rather than water from the tap (see next page).

If this is a pond in your neighbourhood, find out whether anyone is working with local farmers or the local councils to make the environment as good as it can be. It's very difficult to remove nutrients from polluted habitats, but knowing the limitations can help to guide the way sites are managed.



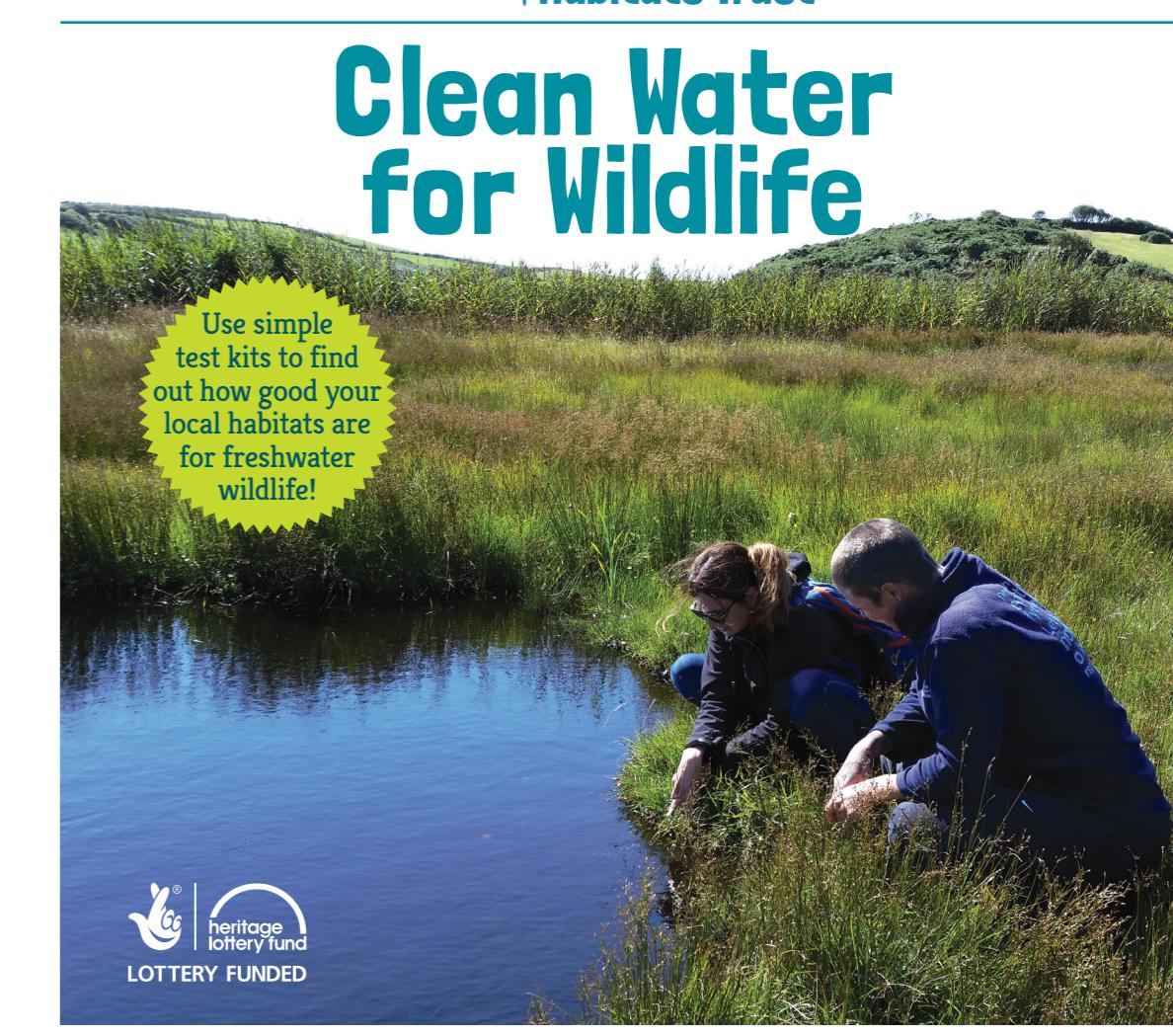
What next?

Discover more online:
The project website has lots more information to help you interpret your results. You'll be able to:

- Look at your own results and compare them with other people's on UK and regional maps
- See how many places that have been tested are clean, and how many are polluted by nutrients
- Find out which types of habitat are generally cleanest for wildlife, and which parts of the country have the best and worst water quality
- Explore the data to answer your own questions - for example: are garden ponds providing clean water habitats?

GET ACTIVE: We can all do something to help reduce the impact of nutrients on the freshwater environment.

- Shout about the best sites you find - get them included in local wildlife plans
- Reduce the nutrients in your home and garden - use low phosphate products and fill your garden pond with rainwater
- Make your own clean water habitats - bring wildlife back to your neighbourhood by creating new clean water ponds
- Get hands on and join a local wildlife volunteer group



LOTTERY FUNDED

Are the ponds, streams and rivers in your neighbourhood good enough for wildlife?

Join in with a community survey and find out

freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/projects/clean-water

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Clean Water for Wildlife



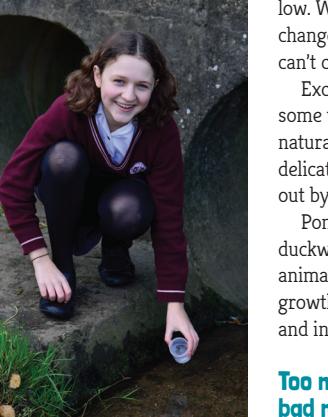
Freshwater wildlife needs clean unpolluted water to survive. Sadly, it only takes a little pollution to damage habitats like streams and ponds, and to harm the most sensitive plants and animals that call these places home.

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.

Sign up and get involved

Anyone and everyone can take part in the Clean Water for Wildlife survey - professionals or beginners. It's easy. With two quick tests you record the amount of nutrient pollution in your local ponds, streams, rivers, ditches and canals - and maybe discover new clean water sites.

Together, we can find and protect the best sites, and build up a picture of the state of water quality and its impact on wildlife across England and Wales.



What's so bad about nutrients?

Most freshwater plants and animals have evolved over millions of years in a world where the natural level of nutrients in ponds, lakes, streams and rivers was very low. When we add more nutrients we cause profound changes to the freshwater environment and the wildlife can't cope.

Excess nutrients cause algae, fungi, bacteria and some water plants to grow more rapidly than they naturally would. Much of our wildlife, especially delicate and rare species, are smothered or crowded out by a few tolerant, fast growing species.

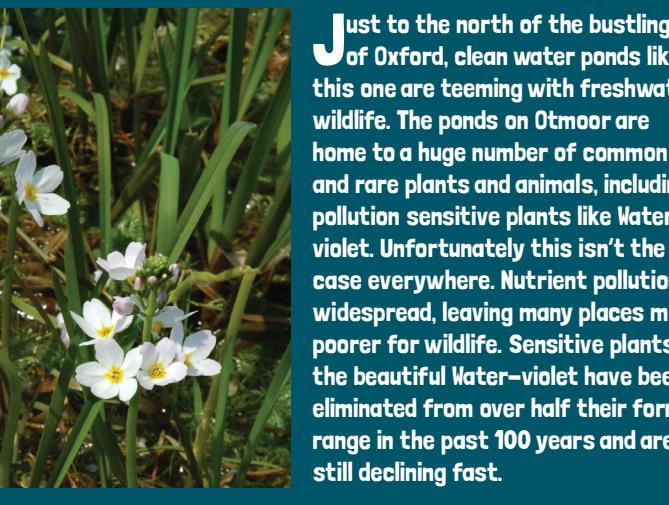
Ponds may become covered in a surface sheet of duckweed and in the dark, oxygen-less water below, animals die. In rivers and streams excessive algal growth causes levels of dissolved oxygen to fluctuate and in extreme cases, even the fish will disappear.

Too many nutrients are bad news for wildlife.

To register and collect your free survey kits and record your results, contact:
Laura Quinlan, Project Administrator, E: peoplepondswater@freshwaterhabitats.org.uk
freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/projects/people-ponds-water

92% of ponds are biologically damaged - clean water is a precious resource.

Clean Water for Wildlife is a national water quality survey that aims to discover places free from pollution where wildlife still thrives.



Just to the north of the bustling city of Oxford, clean water ponds like this one are teeming with freshwater wildlife. The ponds on Otmoor are home to a huge number of common and rare plants and animals, including pollution sensitive plants like Water-violet. Unfortunately this isn't the case everywhere. Nutrient pollution is widespread, leaving many places much poorer for wildlife. Sensitive plants like the beautiful Water-violet have been eliminated from over half their former range in the past 100 years and are still declining fast.

Why is the survey so important?



Although government agencies monitor pollution in our larger rivers, streams and lakes, we know nothing about nutrient pollution in 99% of our ponds, smaller streams, ditches and other freshwater habitats, where so much of our fantastic freshwater wildlife lives.

What's new?

Until recently, the only way to find out about nutrient levels in water has been to do expensive laboratory tests. But in the last few years simple reliable kits have become available.

With these kits, we can all 'see' nutrient pollution: quickly, easily and inexpensively for the first time.

This gives us a wonderful new opportunity to discover more about water quality in all freshwater habitat types across England and Wales.

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.

How to do the survey

Joining in with the survey is fun and simple. Use the kit to find out more about your favourite local spots, or take it further away, perhaps as part of a walk or even on holiday!

You can collect water from one or more sites - including rivers, streams, ponds, ditches and canals. You can even check the water in your garden pond, school pond, water butt or the kitchen tap. Visit your site once, or go back several times during the year and keep a record of any changes.

We want to encourage as many people as possible to take part. You may be a landowner, part of a community group, wildlife organisation, business, school or college. Both groups and keen individuals are welcome to participate.

Summary of the steps involved

- Identify the body of water you want to test.
- Take a water sample (see Health and Safety Info Pack).
- Measure the amount of two nutrients in the water, nitrate and phosphate, using the kits.
- Fill out a survey sheet for each site.
- Tell us what you've found - enter the data online so that it contributes to the national survey database or email us your results.
- Find out what your results mean (over the page).

Using your clean water kits

You use one phosphate and one nitrate tube for each water sample (marked N for nitrate or P for phosphate on the tab at the base of the tube)

- 1 Pull out and discard the yellow pin leaving a small air hole
- 2 With the air hole pointing upwards, use your finger and thumb to squeeze out the air
- 3 Keeping the air squeezed out, turn the tube upside down and insert below the water
- 4 Gently release the pressure and suck up enough water to fill the tube just over half way

- 5 If you need to, turn the tube upright again, squeeze out a bit more air to suck up more water to just over half way
- 6 Gently shake the tube to mix the water and powder inside
- 7 Make a note of the time and wait for the colour reaction

- Nitrate: 3 mins
Phosphate: 5 mins**
- 8 Compare the tube with the colour chart immediately when the time is up, as the colour will continue to develop.
 - 9 Record the results below and enter them online or via email

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Recording your Clean Water for Wildlife results

Surveyor names(s) - your name and anyone with you collecting the sample e.g Anne Smith, John Smith

Recording Group - if you are collecting results on behalf of a group, enter the name e.g. Wild About Cheshire

Email - Please supply your email address to receive the online results for your survey.

Grid reference e.g. SP 3212 6543 or nearest postcode

Date

dd/mm/yy

If you don't know either of these, make notes of the waterbody location (e.g. name of nearest road), so you can find the site later on a map. See the website for more help.

What type of waterbody did you sample? (please tick one)

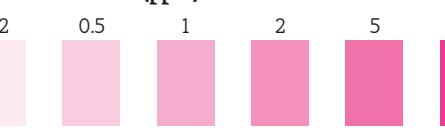
Garden pond Other pond Lake Ditch River Stream

Other (please state)

Name of waterbody e.g. Collier Pond, or Pond in Stubbs Wood (if pond name not known)

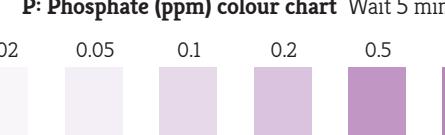
Recording the level of nutrients

N: Nitrate (ppm) colour chart Wait 3 mins



Range categories (tick one)

P: Phosphate (ppm) colour chart Wait 5 mins



Range categories (tick one)