

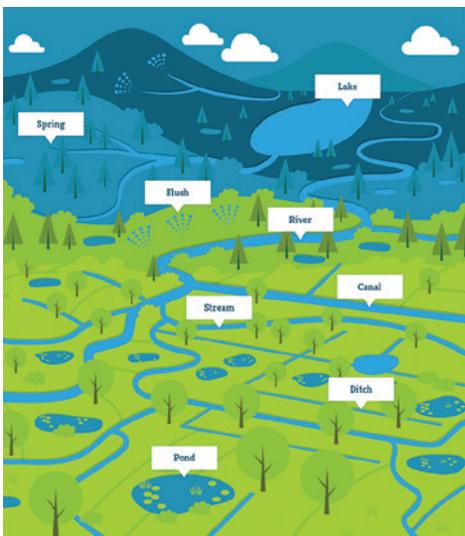
# Clean Water for Wildlife survey

**F**reshwater 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.

## Summary of the steps involved

- Identify the body of water you want to test.
- Find a grid reference to help us locate the relevant water body. For instructions on how to find a grid reference or 'what3words' visit the **WaterNet Data Hub** page on our website.
- Take a water sample (Health & Safety and Biosecurity guidance can be found on our website).
- 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 via the WaterNet Data Hub so that it contributes to the national survey database or email us your results.



## 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



Keep the pin hole upwards and squeeze out the air

- 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

Still squeezing, turn tube upside down and insert below the water

- 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**

Let go, to suck up just over half a tube of water

- 8 Compare the tube with the colour chart immediately when the time is up, as the colour will continue to develop



Leave for the set time and compare with the colour chart



- 9 Record the results below and enter them online or via email

# Recording your Clean Water for Wildlife results



**Surveyor name(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** 8 figure e.g. SP 1234 1234 (or postcode / what3words)

If you don't know this, make a note of the waterbody location, so you can find the site later on a map. Go to the the **WaterNet Data Hub** page on our website for more information.

**Date**

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

Garden pond  Other pond  Lake  Ditch  River  Stream

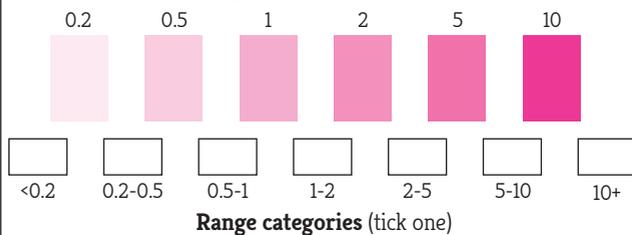
Other (please state)

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

## Recording the level of nutrients

- 1 Once the development time is up, compare your N or P tube with the corresponding chart (right).
- 2 The chart is based on ranges e.g. my colour falls between 0.5 and 1. Tick one.
- 3 If the tube hasn't changed colour at all - tick the lowest range category <0.2 N, or <0.02 P.
- 4 If your tube matches one colour exactly, tick the higher range e.g. if recording 0.5, tick the range 0.5-1.

### N: Nitrate (ppm) colour chart Wait 3 mins



### P: Phosphate (ppm) colour chart Wait 5 mins



Submit your results online using the FHT WaterNet Data Hub on our website [freshwaterhabitats.org.uk](http://freshwaterhabitats.org.uk)