



Pond Conservation

www.pondconservation.org.uk/millionponds

Project overview and funding through Biffaward

What is the Million Ponds Project?

The Million Ponds Project will create an extensive network of new ponds across the UK. Phase 1 of the Million Ponds Project runs from 2008 to 2012 in England and Wales and aims to create (i) 4,000 *clean water* ponds, and (ii) 1,000 ponds for BAP species (list of species on the project website).

The project is a collaboration of major landowners and land managers (see list on the project website), co-ordinated by Pond Conservation.

What is a clean water pond?

To contribute to the clean water pond target, a new pond needs to fulfill three criteria. It needs:

1. a clean water source
2. to be left to colonise naturally
3. to be left to thrive without undue disturbance.

An explanation of why these factors are important and how to achieve them is given in *the Pond Creation Toolkit* (see below).

What help and resources are available?

The Pond Creation Toolkit

The Pond Creation Toolkit includes a range of factsheets covering all aspects of pond creation. These will be available to download freely from the project website from 19 February 2009.

What is a pond?

Ponds are permanent or seasonal waterbodies between 1m² and 2 hectares in surface area (about 2.5 football pitches).

This definition includes temporary ponds that dry up during the year, as well as tiny pools and very shallow ponds like 'wader scrapes'.

On-site advice

On-site advice is available from Project Officers (see list below) for larger pond creation schemes. Because the demand is so great, and resources are limited, Project Officers can only make site visits to projects where:

- 1) Five or more new clean water ponds are planned (i.e. a pond complex), or
- 2) Ponds are being made for BAP species

Advice on amphibian and reptile BAP species

The Herpetological Conservation Trust (HCT) www.herpconstrust.org.uk can assist with advice on pond *management and creation* for amphibians and grass snakes.

Training courses

A pond creation training programme will be available for project partner staff from May 2009 onwards.

Is there any funding for pond creation schemes?

Most ponds will be created by partners and individuals who raise their own funds. We are currently preparing a Pond Digging Fund for ponds created for BAP Priority species with *Biffaward* through a Partnership Project (see below). We are also setting up funding for clean water pond creation through *higher level agri-environmental schemes* with Natural England. A list of possible funding sources will be regularly updated on the project website.

Biffaward Partnership Project: pond digging fund for BAP species

In association with Biffaward, we are developing a fund to support pond creation for BAP species. Funding will be available from 2009 to 2012. The closing date for submitting sites for the first round of funding (2009 to 2010) is **13 March 2009**.

To qualify for funding:

- At least one pond-associated BAP species must be either (i) on site or (ii) within dispersal range of the proposed site. Translocation may be considered depending on the species.
- Creation schemes should ideally include three or more ponds. Single ponds may be considered depending on the target species.
- The landowner/manager should be eligible to receive Biffaward funding.

Note that:

- Sites should *normally* be located within 10 miles of a landfill operation (current or disused) and 25 miles of a Biffa operation, but there may be some flexibility depending on the proposed project.
- Planning permission is not required *in advance of submission*, but will normally be needed for the project to go ahead.
- Funding through this scheme is aimed at the hire of digger/driver/dumper and planning permission. The inclusion of other costs, e.g. pond liners, may be negotiable depending on the nature of the scheme.

If you would like training, advice or funding through the Biffaward Scheme, then please contact: Dawn Isaac, 01733 455430, dawnisaac@pondconservation.org.uk