

Your Name	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	Date	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>
Square: 4 figure grid ref e.g. SP1243 (see your map)	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	Pond: 8 figure grid ref e.g. SP 1235 4325 (see your map)	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>
Pond name (if known)	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>		
Determiner name (optional) - if someone confirms the identity of the species you've recorded)	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>	Voucher material (optional) - comment if you've taken a photo to confirm identification)	<input style="width: 95%;" type="text"/>

Please complete a COMMON TOAD AND COMMON FROG SURVEY sheet for each pond surveyed in your 1km grid square.

The aim is to visit each survey pond in the 1km square in March or April and see if frogs, toads or their spawn are present. An average sized pond will take around 45 minutes to sample (longer if the pond is large). If you are uncertain about adult or spawn identification, you can learn all the skills needed from our online information sheets and video. Go to www.freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/projects/pondnet/survey-options/frogandtoad for survey guides and more information.

METHOD

- Undertake a **visual search** (no equipment needed) of your ponds **during the day time** in March or April, looking for adult frogs and toads, or their spawn. You only need to **visit the pond once** each year.
- If you see other amphibians whilst looking for frogs and toads you can record them as well.
- Complete a **Pond Habitat Survey Form** (pages 2 to 4) to calculate a **Habitat Suitability Index** – this is a metric of pond quality for Great Crested Newts but can also be used as a guide to pond quality for other amphibians.
- **Please enter your results online at:** www.freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/projects/waternet
- You can take and **upload photos** of the amphibians found for reference and confirmation purposes.

Common Toad and Common Frog sightings:

Note: if you don't find any evidence of toads or frogs at a pond, this is an important result - please tick the last column in the table, and be sure to enter these findings online.

	Tick, add numbers and a range*				Tick	
	Adult	Immature	Tadpole	Spawn	Not seen this visit	Identification uncertain
Common Toad				*		
Common Frog						

* if you find toad spawn you only need to tick the box. It is not necessary to count strings of toad spawn in this survey,

Other amphibians seen at the pond:

Record any other amphibians seen whilst searching for Common Frogs and Common Toads.

	Tick, add numbers and a range*				Tick
	Adult	Immature	Larvae or efts	Eggs	Identification uncertain
Great Crested Newt					
Palmate Newt					
Smooth Newt					
Non-native amphibian (list)					

Notes (e.g. number of males and females):

* For range values choose one of the following options: 1, 2-5, 6-10, 11-20, 21-50, 51-100, 101-200, 201-500, 501-1000, 1001-2000, 2001+

* if you have experience (and a licence) you may want to record presence of Great Crested Newt or other newt eggs that you find. Unwrapping leaves to identify newt eggs can be damaging, so please minimise the number looked at - record presence (not abundance) of newt eggs.

Please complete a **POND HABITAT SURVEY** sheet at each pond surveyed.

This is a really important part of the survey at your pond. Please complete this form whether amphibians are present or absent. Critical HSI metrics are indicated by a shaded box – we cannot calculate an HSI score for the pond unless these have been submitted. Other metrics will give us a full picture of pond quality.

Go to: www.freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/projects/pondnet/survey-options/habitats for survey guides and more information.

Is the pond new? (less than 10 yrs old)

yes, no, unknown

Year of creation?

date, decade, unknown

Pond Altitude

(m)

Area

 m²

Note: This is the *surface area of the pond when the water is at its highest level (usually in early spring)*. It will probably *not* be the current water level of the pond. The high water level line should be evident from wetland vegetation like rushes at the pond's outer edge. Measure by pacing (single pace = 0.8-1m) or use online maps.

Pond dries?

1 = never dries
2 = rarely dries
3 = sometimes
4 = annually

1 = Never dries, 2 = Rarely dries: no more than two years in any ten year period, or only in drought, **3 = Sometimes dries:** dries between three years in ten to most years, **4 = Dries annually.** Deduce pond permanence from local knowledge (e.g. landowner) and personal judgement e.g. water level at the time of the survey. Ponds that dry out annually usually have a hard base.

Overhanging trees & shrubs

% of pond overhung by trees and shrubs

% pond margin overhung to at least 1m from the pond margin

This is an estimate of how much of the pond is *directly* overhung by trees and shrubs, i.e. that would be shaded if the sun was overhead (use the diagram (below) as a guide).

Waterfowl impact

1 = major
2 = minor
3 = none

Major = severe impact of waterfowl e.g. few or no submerged plants, water turbid, pond banks have patches where vegetation removed, feed put down; **Minor** = waterfowl present, but little impact on pond vegetation, pond still supports submerged plants and banks are not denuded of vegetation; **None** = no evidence of waterfowl impact (moorhens may be present).

Fish presence

1 = major
2 = minor
3 = possible
4 = absent

Major = dense populations of fish known to be present; **Minor** = small numbers of Crucian Carp, goldfish or stickleback known to be present; **Possible** = no evidence of fish, but local conditions suggest that they may be present; **Absent** = no records of fish stocking and no fish revealed during survey.

Disturbance by dogs

1 = major
2 = minor
3 = none

Major = dogs repeatedly use the pond, compacted edges with little vegetation, water very turbid; **Minor** = dogs use the pond, but little impact on pond vegetation, pond still supports submerged plants and banks are not denuded of vegetation; **None** = no evidence that dogs are using the pond.

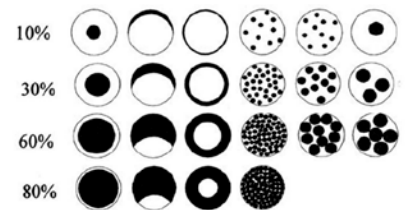
Aquatic vegetation: includes emergent, floating and submerged plants

 %

% of the whole pond (wet and dry) occupied by emergent vegetation – incl. plants like grasses, water mint and rushes, but not floating (e.g. pondweed) or submerged (e.g. water-crowfoot) species.

 %

% of pond water surface area covered by all vegetation (emergent, floating (excl. duckweed) and submerged).



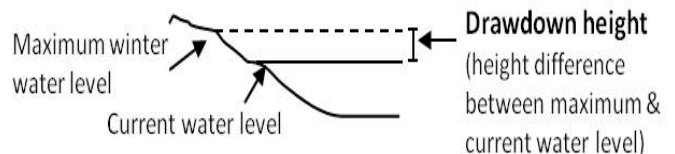
Water left in the pond

 %

% of water area in pond relative to maximum water level. This can be 0% if the pond has dried out.

 cm

Drawdown. The height drop from the maximum winter water level to current level (see diagram).



Grazing

Tick if there is evidence the pond is grazed by livestock. If **yes**, complete the following boxes:

 %

% of whole pond grazed (note: stock can wade into shallow ponds to graze).

 %

% of pond perimeter grazed (note: stock can wade into shallow ponds to graze otherwise inaccessible edges).

Grazing intensity: rank 1-5 (1=infrrequent or low intensity to 5 = margins heavily poached and almost bare).

Pond management (tick): use tick boxes to list management within the last 12 months. Use 'other' box for any extra info.

Fully dredged

Partly dredged

>5% vegetation removed

<5% vegetation removed

Trees planted

Trees clear-felled

Trees cut back / coppiced

Pond changed shape / size

Plants introduced

Bank plants mown

Structural work e.g. to dam

Straw added

Add other or more detail

Water quality:

Turbidity / water clarity: Estimate turbidity looking down into c.20cm depth of water in the pond.

1 = clear; 2 = moderately clear; 3 = moderately turbid; 4 = turbid

Inflows and outflows: (tick if inflow or outflow present or leave blank)

Inflow present Outflow present

Water chemistry: If suitable kits and meters are available (or leave blank)

pH

Conductivity ($\mu\text{S cm}^{-1}$)

Nitrate (NO_3^- -N ppm): PPW kits provided by FHT
(tick one from the following range categories)

Phosphate (PO_4^{3-} -P ppm): PPW kits provided by FHT
(tick one from the following range categories)

<0.2 0.2-0.5 0.5-1 1-2 2-5 5-10 10 +

<0.02 0.02-0.05 0.05-0.1 0.1-0.2 0.2-0.5 0.5-1 1 +

Pond base:

This refers to the *geology* (i.e. rock-type) that immediately underlies the pond. You may know, or be able to see the underlying geology in the base or banks of the pond, especially in new ponds. If not, check a geology map or leave this section blank.

Choose one of the following to categorise the % composition of **each** of pond base: 1= 0-32%, 2= 33-66%, 3= 67-100%

Silt/ clay Sand, gravel, cobbles Hard rock Peat Other (please specify)

Surrounding land use:

Estimate the percentage of surrounding land-use in distance zones from the pond perimeter (i.e. the maximum winter water level) used to assess pond area. In many ponds the 0-5m zone will include surrounding trees/scrub.

Habitat	0-5m	0-100m	Examples
Trees, woodland & scrub	%	%	Deciduous and coniferous woodland, individual trees, scrub and hedgerows.
Heath & moorland			Lowland and upland heathland, moorland and mountain; includes bracken.
Rank vegetation			Unmanaged grass, neglected and abandoned land, set-aside, verges and buffer strips.
Unimproved grassland			Herb-rich, calcareous and acid grassland (good quality plant indicators usually present). Low percentage of agricultural grasses. Not fertilised, little or no drainage.
Semi-improved grassland			A transition category. Grasslands modified by fertilisers, drainage, herbicides or intensive grazing, but retaining elements of natural grassland types in the area.
Improved grassland			Fertile agricultural grass, often bright green and lush; including parks and golf greens.
Arable			All crops. Includes flower and fruit crops (e.g. strawberries) and ploughed land.
Urban buildings & gardens			Areas in curtilage (associated with buildings); including glass-houses and farm yards.
Roads, tracks & paths			Including car-parks and footpaths.
Rock, stone & gravel			Cliffs, rock-outcrops, gravel-pits, quarries, areas of sand and gravel or stone.
Bog, fen, marsh & flush			Wetland vegetation and blanket bog.
Ponds & lakes			Permanent and seasonal waterbodies; including trackway pools.
Streams & ditches			Rivers, streams, ditches, springs and canals.
Other (state)			E.g. maritime vegetation, saltmarsh, sand-dune, orchards and railways.

Is the pond in a protected area? (e.g. nature reserve, SSSI, etc.)
(choose one option - yes, no, unknown)

Invasive non-native species: Record any non-native invasive species you know to be present in the pond, or leave blank if you are unsure. Visit <https://freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/projects/pondnet/survey-options> for tips on identification (please tick all that apply).

<input type="checkbox"/> New Zealand Pigmyweed <i>Crassula helmsii</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Floating Pennywort <i>Hydrocotyle ranunculoides</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-native Pondweed, e.g.: Canadian Pondweed <i>Elodea canadensis</i> , Nuttall's Pondweed <i>Elodea nutallii</i> , Curly Waterweed <i>Lagarosiphon major</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Parrot's Feather <i>Myriophyllum aquaticum</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Fern <i>Azolla filiculoides</i>	

Location score for Great Crested Newts (select pond location based on map to right)

A (optimal), B (marginal) or C (unsuitable)



Number of ponds: Note: ponds are <2ha in size - to help you calculate the total use the PondNet map, an OS map, Google maps, or other mapping tool):

Number of *other* ponds (exclude the survey pond) in a *1km radius circle* centred on the pond centre. Omit ponds separated by amphibian barriers e.g. large rivers or roads.

If there are more than 12 ponds present in the 1km radius, you can just tick this box.

Habitat quality for amphibians: (choose one option - 1 = none, 2 = poor, 3 = moderate, 4 = good)

None = clearly no suitable habitat within immediate pond locale; **Poor** = habitat with poor structure that offers limited opportunities for foraging and shelter (e.g. amenity grassland); **Moderate** = offers opportunities for foraging and shelter, but may not be extensive; **Good** = extensive habitat that offers good opportunities for foraging and shelter completely surrounds pond e.g. rough grassland, scrub or woodland.

Water quality for amphibians: (choose one option - 1 = bad, 2 = poor, 3 = moderate, 4 = good)

Bad = clearly polluted, only pollution-tolerant invertebrates, no submerged plants; **Poor** = low invertebrate diversity, few submerged plants; **Moderate** = moderate invertebrate diversity; **Good** = abundant and diverse invertebrate community, often surrounded by semi-natural land e.g. grassland, heath, woodland.

How much of pond perimeter could be surveyed? Note areas of the pond which were not accessible.

Comments box: e.g. new ownership, changes since previous visit, any other information about the pond.

Pond sketch map: Make a sketch map of your pond, marking on variables such as amount of shade and patches of emergent vegetation. These will help you to calculate percentage cover and provide a record of the pond which you or others can use on future visits.

You can also take a photo of your pond or your maps (or scan them if you have a scanner) and upload them with the record www.freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/projects/waternet.