

Priority Pond Assessment (PASS) Field sheet

Your name(s)

Date

Pond grid reference (8 fig Minimum e.g. SP 1235 4325)

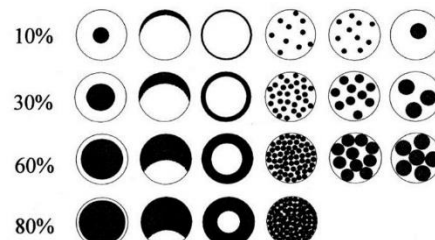
Pond name (optional)

Inflows

1=inflow is present, 0= no inflow

Overhanging trees & shrubs

% **% of pond overhung by trees and shrubs** 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 directly overhead



Aquatic and wetland vegetation cover, excluding duckweed, water fern and filamentous algae

% **% of the whole pond (wet and dry) occupied by water plants like grasses, water mint and rushes, submerged (e.g. water-crowfoot) species and floating species e.g. waterlily** But exclude filamentous algae, duckweeds and water fern (e.g. *Lemna*, *Spirodela* and *Azolla* species).

Grazing intensity

Rank 1-5 (1=infrequent or low intensity to 5 = margins heavily poached and almost bare). Intermediate scores e.g. 3.5 can be used.

Isolation

Rank on a scale 0-5 (0=highly isolated from other waterbodies and wetlands to 5 = located in the middle of a major wetland area). Intermediate scores e.g. 3.5 can be used.

Surrounding land use: Estimate the *percentage* of surrounding land-use in distance zones outward from the pond *outer* edge (i.e. the maximum winter water level). In many ponds the 0-5m zone will be dominated by the vegetation on the pond's upper banks. Greyed-out boxes indicate information that is not required.

Note: this list only includes land use types relevant for the PASS survey. In most cases, the columns will not add up to 100%. If a land use type is not present within the distance zone write 0% in the box.

Land use type	0-5m %	0-100m %	Examples
Trees, woodland & scrub			Deciduous woodland, individual trees, scrub and hedgerows (exclude coniferous woodland and commercial orchards)
Heath & moorland			Lowland and upland heath and moorland; 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.
Ponds & lakes			Permanent and seasonal standing waterbodies
Other semi-natural			E.g. maritime vegetation, saltmarsh, sand-dune, cliffs, rock-outcrops, gravel-pits, quarries, areas of sand, gravel or stone, river, stream, ditch and spring, canals, bog, fen, marsh & flush
Conifer woodland			Coniferous woodland
Arable			All crops (except grass). Includes flower, vegetable and soft fruit crops and ploughed or fallow arable land

Enter your data

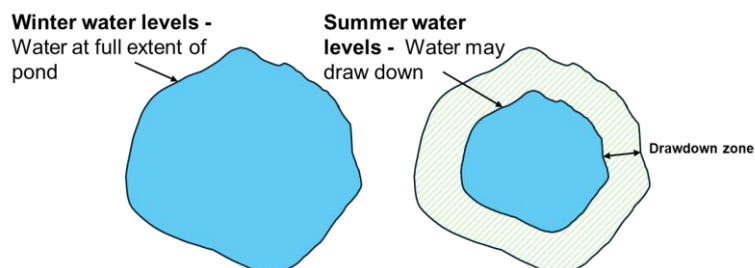
Once you've collected your data, please enter the results on the Freshwater Habitat Trust website to identify whether the pond qualifies as a priority pond using this method.

Guidance for the surveyor

Pond extent

The full extent of the pond may be larger than where the water is currently sitting, particularly in the summer months when it may dry down. Some ponds may even be completely dry.

Please use the full pond extent, the area water will cover in the winter. Vegetation change and tide marks on trees or branches are a good indication of the high water levels and the pond extent.



Grazing intensity

The extent of grazing and trampling (poaching) by livestock e.g. cattle, sheep, horses that have access to the pond. Can include grazing by other hooved animals e.g. wild deer.

Excludes, rabbits, ducks and geese or other disturbance, for example by people or dogs.

Evidence of grazing:

- Grazed grassland vegetation at the pond edge
- Hoof poaching and trampling in pond mud
- Presence of animal dung in the pond or surrounds.

Score	Grazing levels
0	No grazing
1	Infrequent or low intensity grazing, for example, ponds that can be accessed by animals, but the surrounding grassland is tall and shows few signs of grazing
2	Clear evidence of grazing, and probably poaching, on the pond banks and margins, but not sufficient to create extensive areas of bare ground in these areas (<5%)
3	Ponds that have short-grazed vegetation on the pond banks and/or significant evidence of hoof poaching with 0% to 20% of the margins exposed as trampled mud.
4	Pond banks and margins heavily grazed and poached so that between 20% and 90% of the pond banks and margins are bare poached mud
5	Pond margins so heavily poached and grazed that they are almost bare of vegetation (i.e pond margins are at least 90% mud).

Isolation

Assessments should preferably be made using a 1:25,000 scale map, and can be supplemented by local observations. You can view Ordinance Survey maps on Bing www.bing.com/maps

Note: If you are completing this survey as part of the Chess Priority Ponds project then this section will be completed for you.

Score	Isolation levels
0	The pond is highly isolated: lying in an area with virtually no waterbodies or wetland areas for 2-3 kilometres e.g. some areas of chalk downland.
1	There are few waterbodies or wetlands within approximately 1 km e.g. arable areas with small ditches but few ponds or streams.
2	The surrounding landscape has scattered waterbodies e.g. occasional ponds and/or streams within approximately 1 km of the pond.
3	The surrounding landscape has many waterbodies e.g. 12+ small ponds, and/or many small streams, rivers or areas of wetland within approximately 1 km of the pond. This category includes ponds located in historic wetlands e.g. large river valleys
4	Either: (a) waterbodies and/or wetlands cover an extensive area within 0.5 km of the pond, or (b) the pond is located in a traditional wetland area with many waterbodies e.g. Somerset Levels.
5	Pond is completely surrounded by extensive areas of waterbodies or wetland areas e.g. located within a peat bog or fen.

The PASS Survey Method video presentation and pdf guide are available on the Freshwater Habitats Trust website. <https://freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/advice-resources/survey-methods-hub/priority-pond-survey/>