

What?

- A pond can be defined as a body of water (normally fresh water, but occasionally brackish), which can vary in size between 1 square metre and 2 hectares and which holds water for four months of the year or more.
- Many ponds are artificial and were originally dug for marl (a lime-rich clay spread on fields to reduce acidity) or to provide a water source for livestock. Village ponds were often created for washing off working horses. Some ponds have formed in bomb craters from WWII, while others are ornamental, or have been created specifically for wildlife.

Why?

- Two thirds of all freshwater species are supported by ponds.
- 50% of ponds were lost in the 20th century and 80% of those that remain are in a poor state (*Freshwater Habitats Trust*).
- Pond management is an important conservation task. It may include clearing invasive weed, reducing tree coverage or removing debris.
- Working in or near water presents many hazards including cold water, hidden rubbish, pollution, leptospirosis and drowning, so great care needs to be taken when undertaking tasks.



Do ✓

- ✓ Check the site for any dangers
- ✓ Transport materials safely in the minibus
- ✓ Only let those competent work in water
- ✓ Wear the appropriate PPE (waders/wellingtons/waterproof gloves)
- ✓ Use appropriate lifting and handling techniques
- ✓ Clean boots/wellingtons thoroughly before putting away to prevent the spread of invasive species
- ✓ Remind everyone the hazards of working near water and of uneven or boggy ground
- ✓ Cover any cuts, scratches, open wounds or areas of eczema with waterproof plasters
- ✓ Ensure everyone working in water is kept hydrated and warm, it can be exhausting and water is cold

Don't ✗

- ✗ Don't work in water that is above knee height
- ✗ Don't forget to take regular breaks
- ✗ Don't work in water alone, someone should always be nearby on land in case of an emergency, and carry a mobile phone and a throw rope
- ✗ Don't let others get too close to the edge of water
- ✗ Don't carry on working if the water level suddenly rises
- ✗ Don't work if the task is deemed too dangerous

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