

## Guidance Notes for the Enquiry Form



The Enquiry Form will: (i) help us assess your project against the Million Ponds Project criteria and, if relevant, (ii) provide the first stage of your application to the Biffaward Pond Digging Fund. Please read these guidance notes and the Pond Creation Toolkit before filling in the Enquiry Form.

### **Background**

Over 80% of our ponds are damaged by pollution and pond numbers are also low compared to early the 20<sup>th</sup> century, when there were about one million ponds in Britain.

The Million Ponds Project aims to address this and provide new, clean water habitat for wildlife by creating 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 pond-associated BAP species.

The project is a collaboration of major landowners and land managers, co-ordinated by Pond Conservation. For further information, please visit:

[www.pondconservation.org.uk/millionponds](http://www.pondconservation.org.uk/millionponds)

### **Million Ponds Project criteria**

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.

*Or*

A pond needs to be created specifically for a pond-associated BAP species – these are listed on the project website. These ponds should, as far as possible, also fulfil the three criteria above.

You can find out which BAP species occur on or near your site by using the BAP Species Map, also on the Million Ponds Project website.

Please refer to the Pond Creation Toolkit (Sheet 2 and 5) for further information about these criteria.

### **What help and resources are available?**

#### ***The Pond Creation Toolkit***

The Pond Creation Toolkit includes a range of factsheets free to download from the project website which cover all aspects of pond creation:

- Sheet 1 Background to the Million Ponds Project
- Sheet 2 Creating clean water ponds for wildlife
- Sheet 3 Summary of the pond creation process
- Sheet 4 Designing ponds for wildlife

- Sheet 5 Locating ponds and finding a clean water source
- Sheet 6 Planning pond creation
- Sheet 7 Constructing ponds
- Sheet 8 Managing ponds after creation

There are also two supplementary Factsheets (supplements to sheet 6 and 7):

- Costing projects and working with contractors
- Advice on planning permission

You can also find out which BAP species occur on or near your site using the BAP species map on the project website.

### ***On-site advice***

On-site advice and support with project development is available 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 at one site or a pond complex (i.e. a cluster of ponds) are planned, or
- 2) Ponds are being made for BAP species with a restricted distribution (see list on website).

### ***Advice on amphibian and reptile BAP species***

Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (<http://www.arc-trust.org/>) have a dedicated Ponds Officer, David Orchard, who can assist with advice on pond *management and creation* for amphibians and grass snake.

### ***Advice for pond creation on mineral sites***

We have a dedicated Pond Officer for pond creation on mineral sites, Madeleine Ryan, who can assist, develop and implement pond creation projects on sites currently being restored, or as part of the aftercare and management of already restored mineral sites.

### **Is there any funding for pond creation schemes?**

Many ponds are created by partners and individuals who raise their own funds. We are currently preparing the 3rd and final round of applications to the Pond Digging Fund for ponds created for BAP Priority species. Funding for clean water pond creation can also be obtained through *higher level agri-environmental schemes*. A list of other possible funding sources can be found on the project website.

### ***Pond Digging Fund for BAP species***

In association with Biffaward, we are developing a fund to support pond creation for BAP species.



The 3<sup>rd</sup> and final round of funding is now open and the application process is as follows:

1. Complete an **Enquiry Form as soon as possible or by 23<sup>rd</sup> December at the latest.**
2. Return it to your Regional Project Officer, the National Amphibian and Reptile Ponds Officer or the Minerals Project Officer (see contact details below).
3. Discuss your scheme with the Project Officer.

4. If your scheme fulfils our criteria and qualifies for Biffaward funding, you will be asked to fill in a **Full Application in January 2011**.
5. Funding will be released in June 2011, subject to approval by Biffaward.

To qualify for funding, your scheme needs to:

- Target at least one pond-associated BAP species that must be either (i) on site or (ii) within dispersal range of the proposed site (see the BAP Species Map on the website). Translocation may be considered depending on the species.
- Include five or more ponds at one site, or a pond complex (i.e. a cluster of ponds). Schemes with fewer ponds may be considered depending on the target species.
- The landowner/manager should be eligible to receive Biffaward funding, but public access is not required.
- Sites should be located (i) within 10 miles of a landfill operation (current or disused) and (ii) within 25 miles of a Biffa operation. There may be some flexibility about the Biffaward 25 miles rule – please discuss this with a Project Officer.

A **high priority** will be given to schemes which:

- Target BAP species with a restricted distribution (see list on website).
- Propose pond complexes or 5+ ponds across a site.
- Offer value for money.
- Are sited in strategic locations (e.g. linking existing populations of BAP species or will benefit isolated populations).
- Fulfil all the Million Ponds Project criteria (see above).

Note that:

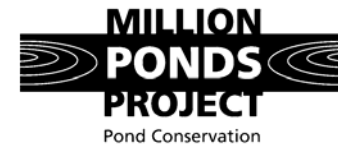
- Planning permission is not required *in advance of submission*, but will normally be needed for the project to go ahead. If in doubt, please submit a planning enquiry, see Toolkit supplement 1.
- Funding through this scheme is aimed at the hire of digger/driver/dumper and planning permission. The inclusion of other costs, e.g. pond liners, may be negotiable depending on the nature of the scheme. Payment is made in arrears and needs to be supported by invoices.

We look forward to discussing your pond creation projects.

The Million Ponds Project Team

October 2010

## Million Ponds Project team Contact details



Region/specialism	Project Officers			
North West, North East, Yorkshire, Humber & Midlands	Rebecca Cleaver	0300 060 2411	07894 036363	<a href="mailto:beccacleaver@pondconservation.org.uk">beccacleaver@pondconservation.org.uk</a>
Wales	Rebecca Good	07738 564128	07738 564128	<a href="mailto:rebeccagood@pondconservation.org.uk">rebeccagood@pondconservation.org.uk</a>
South East, South West & East of England	Pascale Nicolet	01865 483694		<a href="mailto:pnicolet@pondconservation.org.uk">pnicolet@pondconservation.org.uk</a>
Amphibians and reptiles	David Orchard (Amphibian and Reptile Conservation)	01204 529312	07817 373853	<a href="mailto:David.Orchard@arc-trust.org">David.Orchard@arc-trust.org</a>
Mineral sites	Madeleine Ryan	01865 483115	07973 852087	<a href="mailto:mryan@pondconservation.org.uk">mryan@pondconservation.org.uk</a>

For general information, please email [info@pondconservation.org.uk](mailto:info@pondconservation.org.uk)