

Ponds

A National Survey carried out by DeMontfort University between 1983 and 1992 indicates that 65% of ponds (approximately 500,000) have been lost in Britain in the last 100 years. According to this research, ponds are still being lost at a rate of 1.5% (4,000 ponds) per year. Changes in agriculture, pollution, increased land drainage, neglect and development have all contributed to this loss.

Many ponds provide wildlife habitats supporting a wide variety of wetland plants and animals, although their value has often been overlooked and undervalued. Ponds can also be important for the contribution they can make to village character and landscape in the wider countryside. Proposals for development which may have an impact on such features will be assessed in consultation with English Nature, the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and the Pond for People Conservation Trust.

ENV13 Proposals for development which would harm the landscape, townscape, historical or wildlife value of a pond will not be permitted unless:

- 1) The need for a particular development outweighs the particular value of the pond;**
- 2) An equivalent habitat can be created on site or elsewhere in the locality which will provide the same landscape, townscape or wildlife value of the existing pond; and**
- 3) Appropriate management measures are incorporated in the scheme.**