

Discovering Dewponds Project Outline



Credit: Peter Wolstenholme



Overview

The Froglife Trust has been awarded a £249,900 grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to restore nine aquatic wildlife havens under our 'Discovering Dewponds' project within the South Downs National Park (SDNP). The project will be working with The National Trust, The South Downs National Park Authority and co-funders Brighton & Hove City Council. Dewponds are a wonderful part of our natural and cultural heritage and provide vital habitats for threatened amphibians such as frogs and newts. With the decline in traditional shepherding, it is estimated that 39% of the dewponds in Sussex have been lost whilst many more are no longer visible in the landscape. In addition to reversing these losses the project will work closely with local communities to bring these dewponds back to life as part of a wide-ranging public engagement programme.

Project Dates: September 2021 – September 2024

Aims:

- Improve habitats for amphibian and reptile species in the SDNP and surrounding areas.
- Provide an opportunity for local people, with a particular focus on those living in socio-economically disadvantaged communities, to engage in and benefit from nature conservation activities.

How you can help:

- Help link up with existing community groups and key contacts
- Help identify local green spaces for the project to work on

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Charity Patrons: Jules Howard, Kate Bradbury & Mya-Rose Craig

Activities:

Habitat Works and Volunteering

- Restoring/creating nine dewponds at Stanmer Park, Saddlescombe Farm, Newtimber Hill and Devils Dyke
- Create jobs and assist with skills development via three new roles including two salaried trainees. Enlist over 350 volunteers via training workshops and sessions to focus on amphibian and reptile ID, survey techniques and habitat management
- Set up a pond monitoring team to help manage and survey the dewponds

Wildlife Gardening Workshops

- Aimed at community groups, allotments, schools
- Introductions to species and wildlife gardening activities

Toad Summits

- A chance for local community toad patrols to meet and share ideas and to encourage new patrols
- Guest speakers

Neighbourhood Wildlife Corridors

- Create connectivity through these three key areas, Moulsecoomb, Coldean and Hollingbury
- 60 Wildlife interventions; 9 Ponds, 21 bug hotels, 21 wildlife homes, 6 hibernacula/basking areas, & 3 wildflower meadows
- The interventions will be on any green space in these neighbourhoods; schools, allotments, housing, gardens, parks, community areas

Reminiscence Sessions

- Interviews with older people to create a display of wildlife memories of Sussex
- Will also form part of the digital interpretation at the project sites

Reptile & Amphibian Talks

- Amphibian and reptile ID and habitat management talks

Open Days

- Three open days at each project site once habitat works are completed
- Summer 2023 & Spring 2024

Contact Details

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