

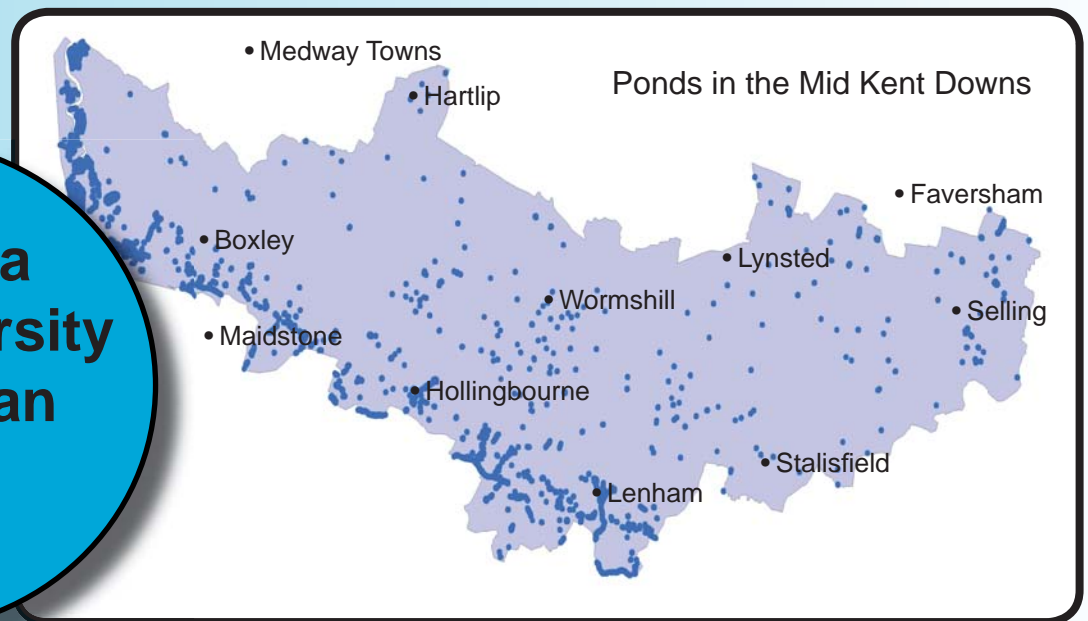
People Dig Ponds

The Mid Kent Downs
Countryside Partnership



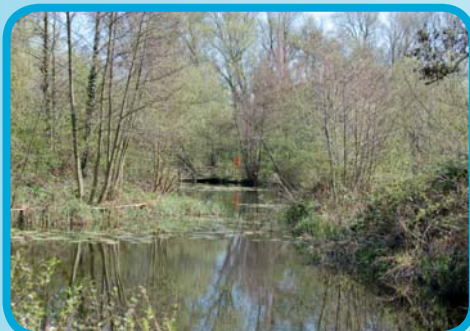
Have you ever thought about digging a pond? Here at the Mid Kent Downs Countryside Partnership we believe that there is a need to create many more ponds within the project area and have come up with a range of resources (including cash) to help address this issue.

**Ponds
are now a
UK Biodiversity
Action Plan
Priority
Habitat**



Ponds in the Mid Kent Downs

Whilst the Mid Kent Downs may be more renowned for its chalk grassland and ancient woodland, ponds have played an important part of the semi-natural and farmed landscape. Over recent years, numbers of ponds have decreased dramatically and even compared to other parts of the Kent Downs AONB, the Mid Kent Downs now has very few ponds. This project aims to develop a toolkit of new and existing materials and resources to help local landowners and community groups address the lack of ponds in the Mid Kent Downs.



People Dig Ponds

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What are the benefits of digging a pond?

- Ponds have a high wildlife value. A study by Pond Conservation showed that there are more rare and protected species in ponds than rivers.
- More ponds will help to restore the traditional character of Mid Kent Downs landscape.
- There are around 80 BAP Priority Species found in freshwater.
- To be valuable, ponds do not have to be big, deep or permanent.
- Funding for pond creation is now much easier to find as ponds are now priority habitats in both the UK and Kent Biodiversity Action Plans.
- A network of ponds act as excellent stepping stones for wildlife.

What is a pond?

Any area of standing freshwater between 1m² and 2 hectares in size that holds water for at least 4 months of the year



A newly dug pond left to colonise naturally

What can you do?

Is there somewhere that you know where you would like to see a pond? If so, we may be able to help you:

- Find out whether there is a clean water source.
- Source some funding to help build the pond.
- Identify contractors.
- Find resources to help with all aspects of pond design, management and surveying.

**Over
60% of the
UK's ponds
were lost in
the twentieth
century**

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