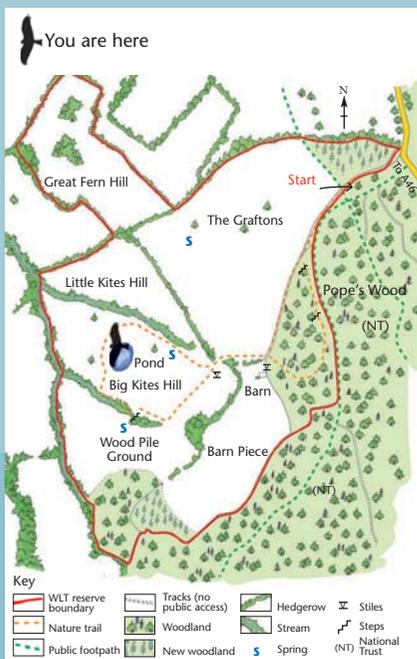
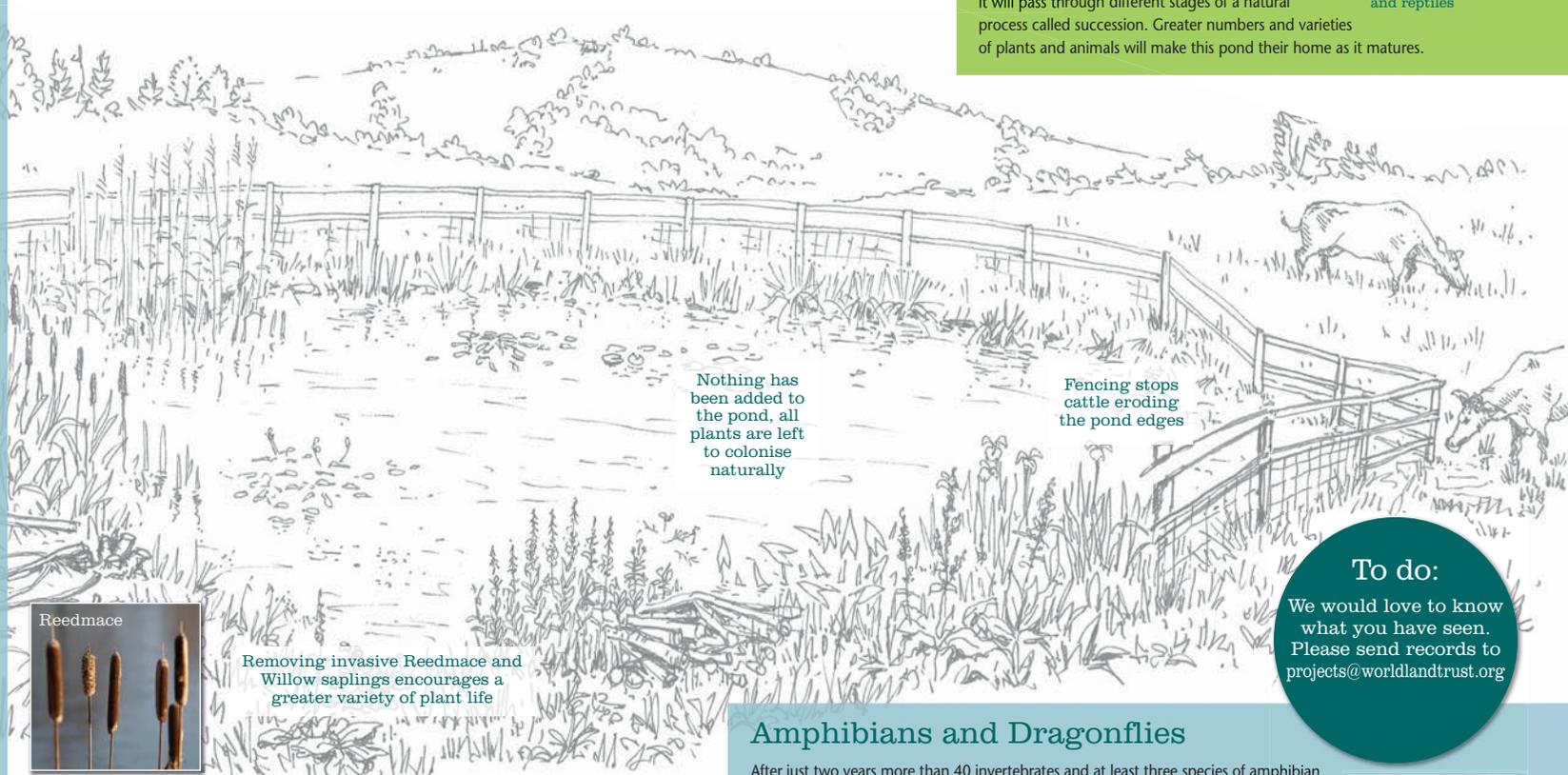


# welcome to Kites Hill

Ponds, whether created by rain or spring water or made by man, are an important home for wildlife. Many ponds in this country have been lost due to infilling, agricultural changes, house building or through lack of good management. In 2009 World Land Trust (WLT) created this wildlife pond to provide new habitat for aquatic species. Our pond is now full of plant and animal life, some of which is nationally rare, and we hope that over time it will attract an even greater diversity of species.



# Pondlife



## Attracting wildlife

WLT created this wildlife pond with funding support from Gloucestershire Environment Trust. As the pond was left to colonise naturally, every plant and animal you see in or around it has made its own way here. As with most ponds, as it ages, it will pass through different stages of a natural process called succession. Greater numbers and varieties of plants and animals will make this pond their home as it matures.



Log piles at the water's edge create extra hiding places for amphibians and reptiles

Nothing has been added to the pond, all plants are left to colonise naturally

Fencing stops cattle eroding the pond edges

## To do:

We would love to know what you have seen. Please send records to [projects@worldlandtrust.org](mailto:projects@worldlandtrust.org)



Reedmace

Removing invasive Reedmace and Willow saplings encourages a greater variety of plant life



Yellow Flag Iris

## Plants

Two years after construction the pond was surveyed and found to have common pioneering species such as Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*), Common Duckweed (*Lemna minor*) and populations of scarcer plants such as Stoneworts (*genus Chara*), ancient forms of plants that are found in clean water. Look out for typical aquatic plants such as Yellow Flag Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), Reedmace (*Typha latifolia*) and the distinctive shaped Arrowhead (*Sagittaria sagittifolia*). Also notice plants surrounding the pond such as Ragged-Robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*), which favour wetter environments.



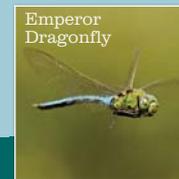
Ragged Robin

## Amphibians and Dragonflies

After just two years more than 40 invertebrates and at least three species of amphibian were recorded at the pond and these numbers continue to increase. In May and June look out for the Hairy Dragonfly (*Brachytron pratense*), a localised and uncommon species. This is the smallest of the *Aeshnidae* (or Hawker) family of dragonflies, and can be distinguished by its fuzzy thorax (the middle section of the body). In contrast look out for the large Emperor Dragonfly (*Anax imperator*), from the same family. In the spring the pond fills with spawn and amphibians. Look out for Frogs (*Rana temporaria*), Toads (*Bufo bufo*) and Palmate Newts (*Lissotriton helveticus*), which have all been seen here.



Hairy Dragonfly



Emperor Dragonfly



Toad



Frog



Palmate Newt

Credits: Reedmace, Yellow Flag Iris & Ragged-Robin, John Bridges/[www.northeastwildlife.co.uk](http://www.northeastwildlife.co.uk); Hairy Dragonfly, Elizabeth Dack; Emperor Dragonfly & Toad, Sherie New/[www.seeing.org.uk](http://www.seeing.org.uk); Frog, Mike Taylor/[www.seeing.co.uk](http://www.seeing.co.uk); Palmate Newt, Jack Perks/[www.wildlife-galleries.co.uk](http://www.wildlife-galleries.co.uk); Design and illustration, [www.wearedrab.net](http://www.wearedrab.net).



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