

# Pond Construction and Management Guidelines

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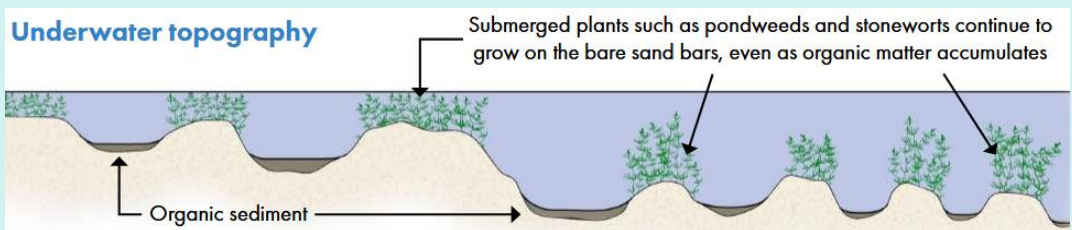


The creation of small-scale ponds for nutrient and sediment collection can be highly beneficial in improving water quality by slowing the flow of water, while also creating new habitats and providing biodiversity on farms.

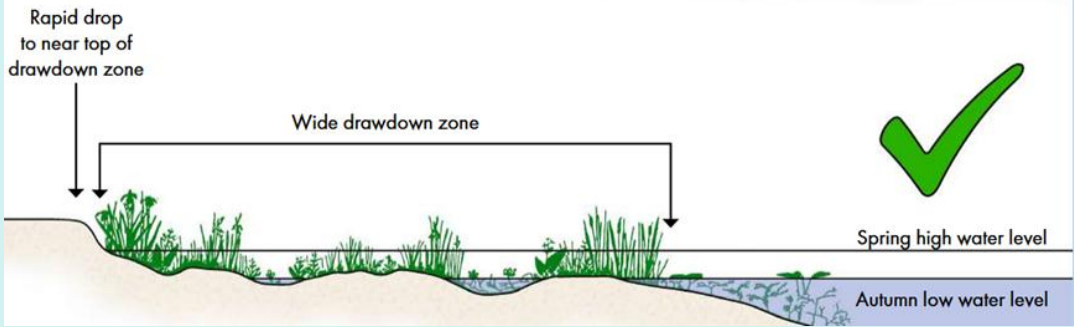
- ✓ Having an outline of 'best practice' for pond construction and management may aid in minimising confusion surrounding installation.

## Construction

- Ponds over 1 m deep require planning permission
- Include silt traps at inlet if the pond is directly fed from river/ditch or in direct flow path
- Deeper areas (+30cm) allow sediments to settle
- Shallow areas allow for plants to establish, and nutrients uptake to occur more efficiently
- Maximise shallow areas (1cm - 20cm)
- Include ridges and bumps under the water to provide more habitat for plants



*Underwater ridges and bumps allow submerged plants to grow, and sediments to settle in hollows (The Irish Pond Manual, O'Rourke and Loughran, 2024).*



*A wider bank area will allow for more plant species to colonise the pond edges, increasing biodiversity and nutrient uptake (The Irish Pond Manual, O'Rourke and Loughran, 2024).*

Silt traps should be planted, and all plants should be locally sourced and native.

- ✓ Bulrush, water mint, and yellow flag iris are ideal for silt trap areas.

Planting the rest of the pond is not necessary, especially if the pond is in close proximity to an established pond, ditch or river.

## Management

- Plant management of in-pond plants and overhanging trees can provide better species diversity, and prevent infilling of the pond
- Dredging may be required, especially in silt traps

For more information:

Check out the Farming for Water website [www.farmingforwater.ie](http://www.farmingforwater.ie) for further information

