



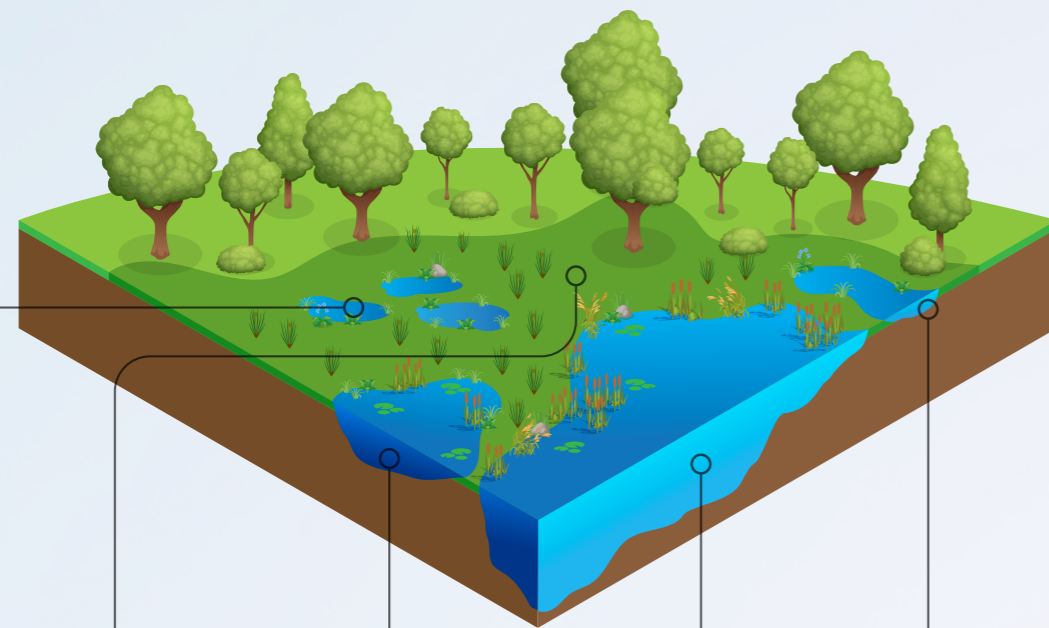
Ponderful

PONDS FOR CLIMATE

What is a ponscape?

A ponscape is a group of ponds, often of different sizes, shapes and depths, spread across the landscape to form a network. A ponscape provides habitats for more species than a single waterbody of the same size - and multiple ecosystem services for people.

Ponscapes may comprise anything from a handful to hundreds of ponds. Biologically, the ponds will form a habitat network, even if they are not physically connected to each other, because freshwater plants and animals are adapted to dispersing between them, forming a landscape with ponds.



Small seasonal ponds Wetland area Medium deep pond Large deep pond Shallow pond

The ponds will also be part of the network of other freshwaters in the landscape, like streams, rivers and wetlands. Although some freshwater species depend on a specific kind of waterbody, many can live in all of these habitats.

This network is vital for freshwater biodiversity and for delivering a variety of ecosystem services. When thinking about ponds as nature-based solutions, bringing benefits both for biodiversity and human wellbeing, it is important to consider the whole ponscape. This means, for example, you could design or manage some ponds to be leisure destinations for people or for pollution interception, and therefore too disturbed or polluted for sensitive plants and animals, while zoning other ponds purely for biodiversity.



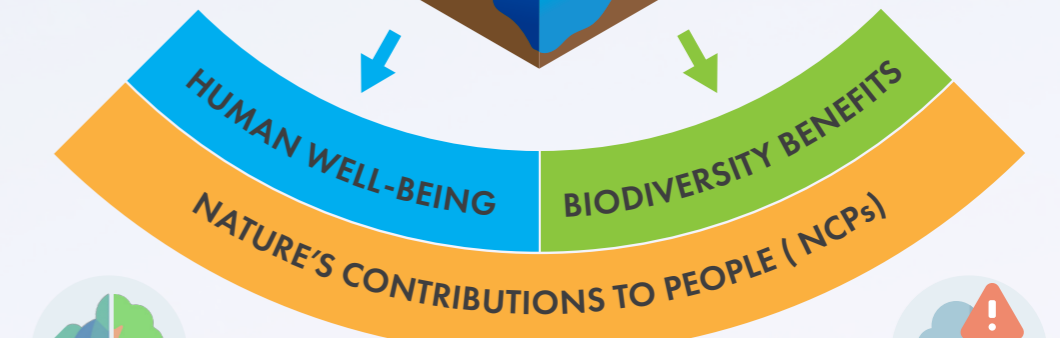
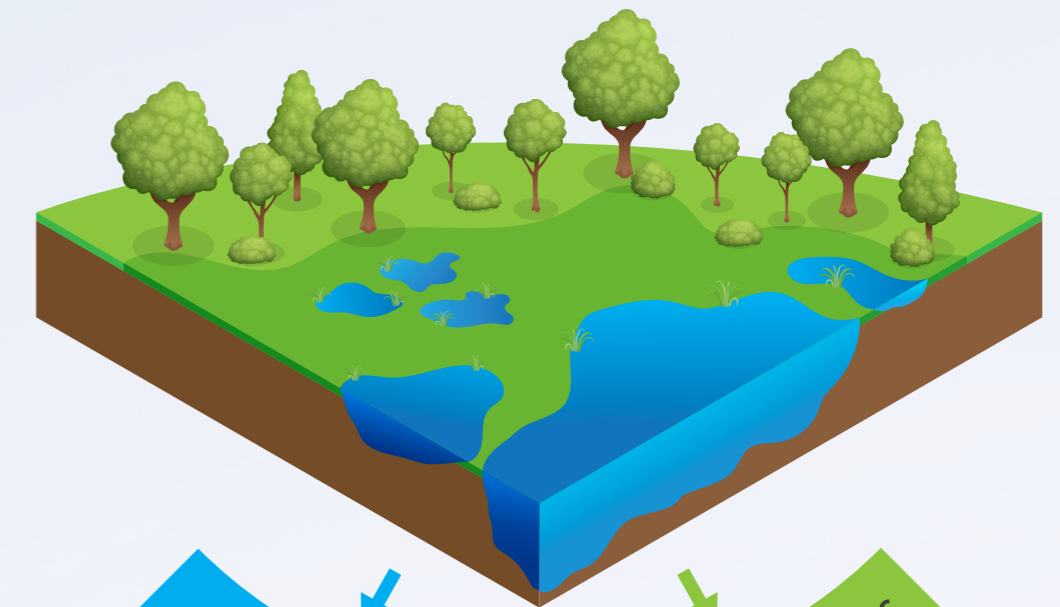
Coleshill ponscape (UK)
This mosaic of ponds and wetlands was created to add new areas of clean water to the floodplain of the River Cole.



Albera ponscape (Spain)
All ponds in this landscape are shallow and temporary, and many are priority habitats under the European Habitat Directive.



Tommelen ponscape (Belgium)
This ponscape was created unintentionally by bombing during World War II and was designated as a nature reserve in 2006. With a management plan to support biodiversity, it is an important green space for local people.



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