

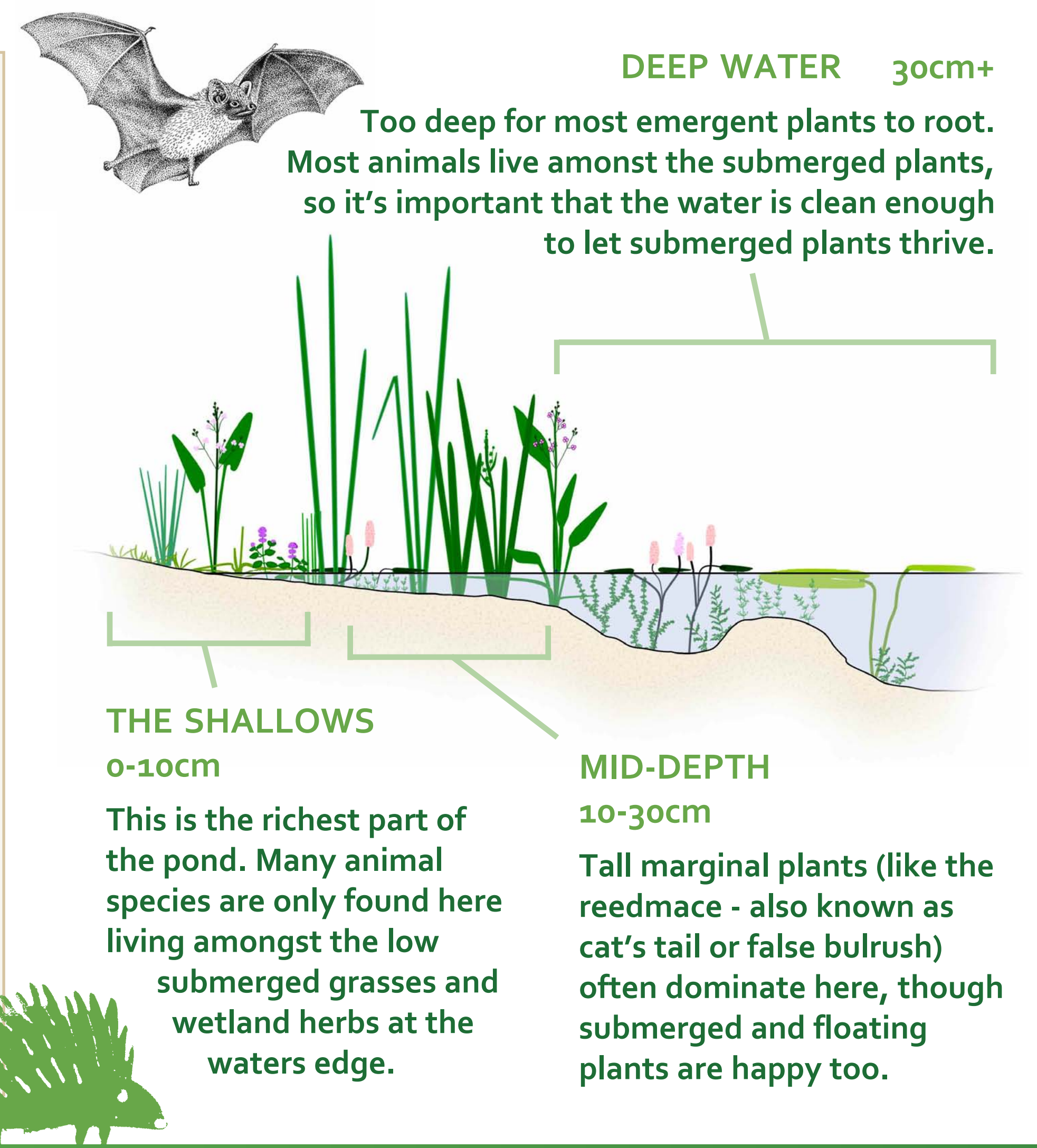
Woods and Water *Coille agus Uisge*



This pond area in the heart of Evanton Wood is an oasis for water-loving plants and animals all year round. The pond is fed by the *Allt Cùl na Greine* ('stream at the back of the sun') also known as the Blayrach Burn.



Biolaireach in Gaelic means 'rich in water-cresses'. A member of the Veronica family, brooklime, limewort or cow grass grows well in this stream. This native plant provides sites for egg-laying, perching and roosting for adult dragonfly - their larvae use the stems to climb out of the water.



Things to look out for...

Spring *An t-Earrach*

- Frogspawn is normally laid in February or March.
- Marginal and underwater plants start to grow.
- On warmer days you might see water beetles *daolagan*, pond skaters and water boatmen flying to the pond *lòn*.

Summer *An Samhradh*

- Damselflies start to emerge: the Large Red comes first in May, followed by the blues.
- Frog tadpoles are leaving the pond; adult frogs *losgann* will be lurking in the cool water
- Pipistrelle bats *laltag* may be hunting overhead
- Ponds occasionally dry out

Autumn *Am Foghar*

- Smaller animals have finished egg-laying; tiny larvae are getting ready for winter
- Frog and newt tadpoles may over-winter
- Plants begin to die back



Winter *Am Geamhradh*

- Larvae of mayflies, dragonflies, damselflies, caddis flies and water beetles all over-winter here even if the water freezes.
- Most plants won't be growing.
- Bats will be hibernating.



Pond care: The combination of underwater plants and light will keep the pond well oxygenated. If it freezes, holes in the ice will give birds (*eoin*) and deer (*fiadh*) somewhere to drink. Over-wintering frogs are happy under the ice as long as there is some oxygen in the water. Long, rain-free summers can cause the pond to dry out, but if looked after the vegetation will still be home to many woodland and wetland creatures.

