

# **POND DIPPING**

## **At the Fant Wildlife Area**

The Fant Wildlife Area is open to the public at all times. You are welcome to visit at any time and enjoy them wildlife. Please respect our nature reserve and leave it just as you found it.

Children should be taught to respect all forms of plant and animal life. They should learn to study plants in the field without damaging them, and to treat animals with care, and never mistreat or kill them.

If your family, school or children's group would like to borrow any equipment to help your pond dipping please contact us. All contact details can be found on our website at [www.fantwildlife.org.uk](http://www.fantwildlife.org.uk).

The following items can be borrowed for the Fant Wildlife Group and may be useful in your pond-dipping:

*Shallow white plastic trays and plastic pots*

*Long handled nets*

*Spoons to transfer creatures*

*Hand lenses*

*Microscope*

*Invertebrate identification sheets*

*Clipboard*

### **Instructions**

1. Put some water into the trays.
2. Dip a net into the water and run it gently through weed or near the bottom of the pond.
3. Empty the contents carefully into the tray and allow it to settle.
4. The creatures you are looking for are small and easily damaged, but when the silt has settled you should be able to see them moving around.
5. Collect them with a spoon and place them in a magnifying specimen pot with some water and look at them carefully.
6. Use an identification sheet and record what you find.
7. If the creature is very small you could also use a microscope.
8. Do not keep the creatures out of the water for too long, and return them to the area of the pond they came from.
9. Your teacher or group leader will help you find out about the life cycles and habits of the creatures found. Some may turn into adult dragon-flies, mayflies or other insects.