

Stream dipping guide



Kick sampling is the way scientists measure the biodiversity of the river. Certain Species of invertebrates (creatures without a backbone) indicate how healthy the river is. Many of the invertebrates will be living under the rocks or the sediment in between. This method of sampling is a good way to catch them!

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

- A good fine mesh net
- A tray or Tupperware boxes (white coloured is better to see what you have caught)
- A spoon
- A magnifying glass
- ID sheets (like The Freshwater Name Trail)
- Wellies (the rocky river bed can be sharp do not go in with bare feet)
- Hand sanitiser

River Dipping Loan Kit

If your group would like to explore what lives in the River Ver, rather than creating your own DIY version, you might like to borrow our loan equipment.

Kit contents:

- 6 x nets
- 6 x white trays
- 12 x deep well palettes
- 6 x bug box magnifying pots
- 10 x waterproof ID sheets
(The Freshwater name Trail)
- 2 buckets
- Plastic spoons

Please email us at events4vvs@gmail.com to organise borrowing equipment.



Fill your trays with river water and place on the riverbank. With your net wade into the middle of the river.

Place the net downstream of yourself flat along the riverbed with the net mouth open.

Start to kick around the substrate and rocks upstream of your net mouth. The flowing water should take any invertebrates you disturb into the net.

Continue to do this for a few minutes, you can move upstream and repeat.

Another technique used alongside this is “hand searching” as many invertebrates cling on to rocks and pebbles. Pick up a stone and lightly brush the surface into the net using your fingers.

If there is vegetation in the middle of the channel or at the sides you should do some further sampling here. Using a sweeping method gently move your net through the plants.

Empty your catch into your trays of river water. You can remove any large stones or plants.

Using ID sheets, spoons and magnifying glasses explore what you have in your trays. The quantity and variety of invertebrates will indicate how healthy the stream is.

After you have finished return the water and creatures to the river.

Make sure you wash your hands and equipment thoroughly!

