

Saving Oxford's Wetland Wildlife

Freshwater Habitats Trust's School Workshop Part of the Saving Oxford's Wetland Wildlife project

Freshwater Habitats Trust representative Francesca will lead the session with teacher and/or teaching assistance support. The session's aims and objectives will be:

- Explain importance of clean water to wildlife and people
- Demonstrate and supervise eDNA and water testing
- Explain relevance of data collection and subsequent contribution to a "bigger picture"

The programme will be delivered between a classroom and water site. The sessions will last 2 hours – morning or afternoon session.

Example schedule:

1000 – 10:30

Water and wildlife

Classroom based session for whole class

– What might be in your pond? Why is clean water important to wildlife and what can you do to help? How are we going to investigate the pond? Identifying habitats within the pond.

1030 – 11:00

Water quality testing. With help of adults, pupils conduct tests and fill out simple data sheets where appropriate. We will test a number of water samples of varying nutrient pollution levels, including the school pond. The children will then share their results and we will discuss what the results mean.

11:00 – 12:00

eDNA sample collection

There is only one eDNA kit, the kit requires you collect water from around the pond. We will give children a chance to help with this. We will then return to the classroom where we will filter the water sample. Whilst the children take turns to help filter the sample the other children will be drawing a picture of their own wildlife pond. We will judge the best drawing at the end.

Once we have filtered the eDNA sample the leader will finish off the eDNA survey by pushing the preservative through the filter paper.

Discussion with the children about what we've learned.

Session ends

Results for eDNA testing will be fed back to the school around six weeks after the session is held.