



Animals & Water Quality

We can find out about the water quality of a pond or river by looking at the animals which live in it. Some animals need well oxygenated water, where as others are able to live in unclean and poorly oxygenated water.

The *Biological Monitoring Working Party* invented a system where each animal is assigned a score. Those which need clean / oxygenated water have a high score, those which can live in poor quality water have a low score. By monitoring the type of animals found, and adding the scores together, you will get a *BMWP* score for your pond which indicates the water quality.

What did you find?	Tick here	Score
Worms		1
Midge Larvae		2
Water Hoglouse		3
Water Snails		3
Leeches		3
Alderfly Larvae		4
Water Beetles		5
Water Boatman		5
Flatworms		5
Freshwater Limpets		6
Freshwater Shrimp		6
Damselfly Nymph		6
Caseless Caddis Larvae		7
Dragonfly Nymph		8
Cased Caddis Larvae		10
Stonefly Nymph		10
Mayfly Nymph		10

What does your score mean?

0 - 15 Poor

16 - 30 Moderate

31 - 60 Good

61 - 94 Excellent