



Before you start: Describe the pond

1. Date of survey _____ 2. Time of survey _____

3. Who are you doing the Water Survey with today?

- Primary school Secondary school Friends or family College / university
 Youth group Adult volunteer group Other

4. Have you been pond dipping before you did the OPAL survey? yes no

5. How would you describe the weather today?    

6. What is the name of the pond? _____

7. Record the location of your site (postcode / OS grid reference / GPS reading).
Further help is available on the OPAL website if you are unsure of the exact location.

8. Which of these describes the area immediately around the lake or pond? Tick any which apply.

- Urban Garden Park School Farmland Grassland Wood or forest Heath or moorland

9. What does the edge of the pond mainly look like? Tick one box only.

- Concrete / paving stone Long grass Mown grass Trees Bare ground

10. Can you see any of the following signs of pollution? Tick any which apply.

- Industrial chimneys Rubbish Discharge pipes Foam on water surface Road within 20m Algal bloom



Activity 1: How clear is the the water?

11. How many OPAL logos could you see when you looked into the bottle?

- 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

If you answered 'other' describe the colour: _____

12. If the water appeared coloured, what colour was it? brown green other _____



Activity 2: Is the water acid or alkaline?

13. When you used the dip strip, what was the pH of the water?

- 4.0 4.5 5.0 5.5 6.0 6.5 7.0 7.5 8.0 8.5 9.0

Activity 3: How healthy is the pond?

14. Record the different types of animals you have found. You can use the Freshwater Invertebrate Identification Guide to help. Use your results to calculate the Pond Health Score.

Type of pond animal	✓	Quality index	Score
Cased caddisfly larvae		Score 10 if you found cased caddisfly larvae	
Dragonfly larvae		Score 10 if you found dragonfly larvae	
Alderfly larvae		Score 10 if you found alderfly larvae	
Damselfly larvae		Score 10 if you found damselfly larvae	
Caseless caddisfly larvae		Score 10 if you found caseless caddisfly larvae	
Mayfly/stonefly larvae		Score 5 if you found mayfly/stonefly larvae	
Water beetles and/or larvae		Score 5 if you found water beetles	
Water bugs		Score 5 if you found water bugs	
Pond skaters		Score 5 if you found pond skaters	
Water shrimps		Score 5 if you found water shrimps	
Water snails		Score 1 if you found water snails	
Water slaters		Score 1 if you found water slaters	
Worm-like animals		Score 1 if you found worm-like animals	
Total Pond Health Score =			

Example: Suppose you found some dragonfly larvae, alderfly larvae, adult beetles and water snails.

Dragonfly larvae	✓		10
Alderfly larvae	✓		10
Water beetles	✓		5
Water snails	✓		1
Total score =			26