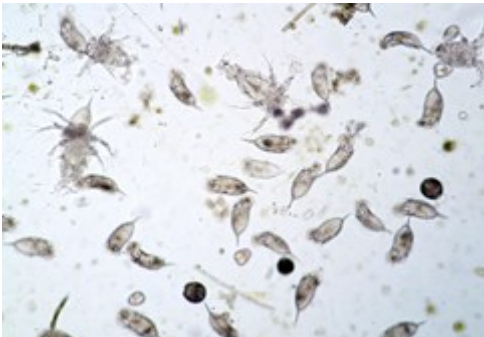


YEAR 12 HIGHAMS PARK BIOLOGY VISIT

As a part of our fieldwork, Year 12 biology visited Higham's park and completed three activities- pond dipping, a nature walk and using systematic sampling.

During the nature walk, we observed the wide range of wildlife present at the park- mostly consisting of different species of ducks, geese, bugs and plants. While exploring the park, we used binoculars to observe animals and identified different species of birds by using the 'Merlin Bird ID' app to recognise bird calls; notable ones being Canadian and Egyptian geese, American coots and Mallard ducks. This showcased the biodiversity of bird species within the park.



Part of the fieldwork also included pond dipping to explore the biodiversity of organisms within the pond. We collected small samples of pond water and used a hand lense (small magnifying glass) to identify the organisms we found. This gave us an insight into the biodiversity of the pond as well as the water quality based on the species we found (mostly consisting of water lice).

We also investigated how different levels of light affects the height, and therefore growth, of grass. We measured the height of grass compared to light intensity at intervals along a tape measure and found that where light was stronger, the grass grew taller. This allowed us to learn how to use ecological equipment accurately to gather valid data as well as understand how much light intensity impacts plant growth.



Overall, this trip allowed us to enjoy the scenery and learn about the biodiversity in our local park while completing our fieldwork.

By Hayden P & Ayesha L