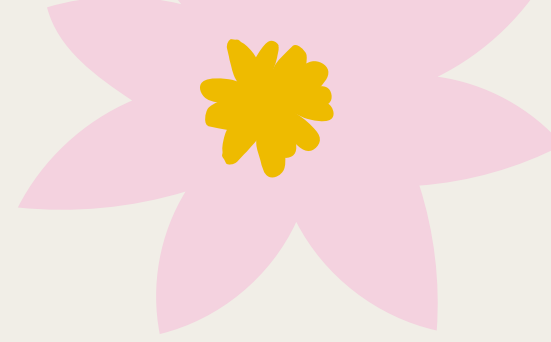


# WATER BEETLE WALK

35 minutes A path-based trail (suitable for wheelchair users) with multiple benches along the way, starting and finishing at the Italian Gardens Café.

## POINTS OF INTEREST

- 1 Italian Gardens water planting
- 2 Buck Hill meadow
- 3 Woodland habitats
- 4 Serpentine Bridge
- 5 Fallen tree and gravel bank
- 6 Veteran trees
- 7 Peter Pan statue pollinator planting



# Dive into the world of invertebrates as we take a stroll around the Long Water in Kensington Gardens.

## POINTS OF INTEREST



### 1. Italian Gardens water planting

The aquatic plants provide resting places for dragonflies and damselflies, whilst also attracting other invertebrates as their prey. The dragonflies and damselflies also lay their eggs in the water.



### 2. Buck Hill meadow

We manage this meadow with help from the beautiful shire horses of Operation Centaur to maintain a diverse habitat for grasshoppers, crickets, spiders, bugs and many more invertebrates.



### 3. Woodland habitats

By using traditional woodland management techniques such as coppicing and dead hedging, and by leaving deadwood in situ, we can maintain a diverse habitat for wildlife including many invertebrates.



### 4. Serpentine Bridge

The Long Water is home to one of the UK's rarest invertebrates, the critically endangered spangled water beetle which is found in only two locations in the whole of the UK.



### 5. Fallen tree and gravel bank

A submerged fallen tree and gravel island provide shelter for fish and aquatic invertebrates, and a resting place for birds and dragonflies. Artificial nesting sites were created for kingfishers and herons. Can you spot these iconic species?



### 6. Veteran trees


Veteran and ancient trees have special conservation value, providing a wide range of micro-habitats in deadwood features such as rot-holes, hollows, flaking bark and fungi. Fencing protects the roots of our most special trees from soil compaction.




### 7. Peter Pan statue pollinator planting

The planting around the Peter Pan statue provides a beautiful display that is beneficial for wildlife. The plants flower from February to November providing nectar for pollinators. This statute is where Peter lands his bird-nest boat in J. M Barrie's story, 'The Little White Bird'.

## FUN FACT



Kensington Gardens is home to some special beetles, including several species of long horn and click beetle. The cardinal click beetle has bright red wing cases (elytra) and lives on veteran oak trees. Click beetles get their name from their special ability to flick themselves into the air to avoid predators, making an audible 'click'.



We would love to see photographs of your walks  
Tag us on Instagram – @TheRoyalParks / #MoreThanBugs

