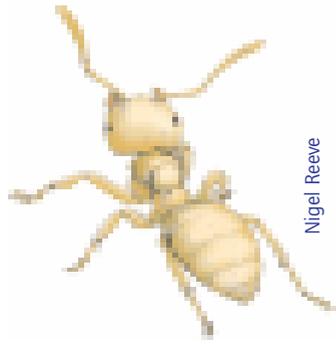


# YOUNG FRIENDS OF RICHMOND PARK

by Karen Rockell



Nigel Reeve

**Q1: Where is the best place to find ants in Richmond Park?**

**Q2: Which of the following are NOT insects?**

(TIP: The simplest way to identify an insect is to count its legs. All insects have six at some point in their life cycle, usually as adults).

1. Beetle
2. Woodlouse
3. Butterfly
4. Centipede
5. Slug
6. Dragonfly
7. Earwig
8. Ant
9. Spider
10. Wasp

**ANSWERS on page 13**

## News

Royal Mail have released a great new stamp series, "Action for Species".

Details can be found at:  
<http://www.royalmail.com/portal/stamps>  
 or visit your local post office.



## Mini-beast websites

<http://www.stagbeetlehelpline.co.uk/>  
<http://www.amentsoc.org/bug-club/fun/build-bug.html>

## Fun facts

A remarkable range of invertebrates lives in Richmond Park. Records so far include 139 spider species, 546 butterfly and moth species and over 1350 beetle species including one that lives on deer dung. At least 150 species of solitary bees and wasps are also to be found in the Park; most are tiny but they make distinctive burrows in sandy soils and banks – look out for them on worn sandy paths.

## ANSWERS

**Q1:** There are billions of them living in ant hills in the acid grassland.

Each ant hill is the result of many lifetimes of labour by thousands of tiny Yellow Meadow Ants (*Lasius flavus*). A lack of disturbance is vital – the mounds cannot form in mown areas. They are also vulnerable to damage by erosion and compaction by trampling and off-road cycling.

For further information read the Ant Hills leaflet available from the information centre outside Pembroke Lodge.

**Q2:** Yes: 1, 3, 6, 7, 8, 10 are insects  
 No: 2, 4, 5 and 9 are not insects.

## USEFUL NOTES

Centipedes have only one pair of legs on each of their segments (unlike millipedes) and belong to a group of animals called chilopoda.

Woodlice are isopods. They have 14 legs and, like crabs and lobsters, are members of the crustacean family.

Slugs and snails have no legs at all. They are gastropods and move along on a slimy foot.

Spiders have eight legs and are arachnids, another completely separate group.