

Short Course Details:	Small Streams Characterisation System	Internal
Practical Task:	Collect macro-invertebrate sample using kick sampling technique	By
This checklist is designed to aid assessment of the practical tasks relating to the collection of a macro-invertebrate sample. It is recognised that it may require modification to suit the specific site conditions experienced during its use. Any changes made should be recorded in the comments box.		Date
		Verification

Candidate's name:	Date of observation:	Assessor:
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Skills / activities observed:	√	Comments
Select and prepare sampling equipment appropriately		
Follow recognised kick sampling procedures Sample in appropriate substrate type Sample in appropriate flow Sample for appropriate time period Scrub sample cobble if appropriate		
Transfer sample from net to examination tray appropriately		
Clear sample in preparation for invertebrate identification		
Clean, disinfect and store equipment		

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Knowledge and understanding apparent from this observation	√	Comments

Observer's Comments

I confirm that the candidate's performance was satisfactory:

Assessor's signature:

Date:

Candidate's signature:

Date:

Devised by  
Date

**Oral question set (if required)**

If there is insufficient evidence of the candidate's knowledge and understanding invertebrate sampling from their practical activities, oral questioning may be used to supplement this.

Examples of the types of question and expected answers are given below.

**Question**

Why is it important to check all equipment prior to commencing sampling?

To ensure you have everything you require and to make sure nothing is faulty. For example the net has no holes in it.

**Question**

What substrate types should be predominantly sampled when carrying out the SSCS and why?

Gravel and cobble as this is the habitat type preferred by pollution intolerant invertebrate species.

**Question**

How long should you generally sample for when using the kick sample technique?

3 minutes

**Question**

Roughly how many different areas would you sample within your selected site?

4 – 6

**Question**

Why is it important to carefully clear your sample prior invertebrate identification and counting?

To make sure you do not accidentally lose part of the sample and to make identification and counting of the organisms quicker and easier.

**Question**

Why is it important to scrub some of the larger cobble when sampling?

Because some organisms on this type of substrate may not be dislodged by the kick sampling procedure. For example Ancyclus and some case caddis species.

**Question**

What type of area might you avoid when taking a sample?

Slow and silted areas as these will contain pollution tolerant species which may distort the sample.

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Areas which have been recently wetted due to a rise in river flow as the invertebrates may not have recolonized.

Areas clearly disturbed by livestock or other activities.

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