

# INVERTEBRATES AT LEWES RAILWAY LAND



ORGANISM		KEY ID POINTS	APPROX SIZE	MORE INFO...
Centipede Chilopod		1 pair of legs per segment	Up to 4cm	Modified front legs from which they inject poison into their prey. Carnivorous. Uneven number of pairs of legs. May grow new segments with each moult
Millipede Myriapoda		2 pairs of legs per segment	Up to 3cm	Detritivores. 2 pairs of legs per segment. Some release foul smelling poison as defence. First animal in fossil record to live on land and breathe air (428m years ago) Males may 'massage' female with their many legs,
Springtail Collombola		Tiny, jump if disturbed	0.5 – 4mm	Up to 10,000 of these in 1m <sup>2</sup> of soil. Can spring the equivalent of us springing over the Eiffel Tower! Detritivores so very important in recycling nutrients
Slugs and snails Gastropoda		Eyes on stalks slimy	various	Slime has antibacterial properties and can be used as anti wrinkle cream, and as a cure for warts. Largest UK is leopard slug up to 20cm long
Woodlice Crustacea		Segmented exoskeleton 14 pairs of legs	1.5-2cm	Eat rotting plants, fungi, so very useful in recycling nutrients. Also eat their own poo but they never wee!
Earthworm Annelida		Long, thin, pointed at both ends. Segmented with saddle	Up to 25cm	Eat dead plants and animals. Vital to soil formation and nutrient re-cycling. Use their skin to breathe, they don't have lungs. Earthworms are about 1000 times stronger than people (relatively) They can eat their own weight in a day.
Earwig Dermaptera		6 legs, curved prongs at rear	1 – 1.5cm	Unlike most other insects, female earwigs are good mothers and protect their 30-50 eggs, and feeds them all until able to fend for themselves
Spiders Arachnida		8legs, 8 eyes	various	Most spiders have 8 eyes as well as 8 legs. Male wolf spiders attract a mate by rubbing their palps (on their head) together to make a purring sound. Spiders silk is stronger than steel by thickness.
Ground beetle Coleoptera		6 legs, large black beetle, some metallic	1 – 2cm	1 out of every 4 animals on earth is a beetle! Hardened forewings serve as armour to protect the more delicate flight wings and soft abdomen underneath.