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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Conserving, enhancing and promoting the Stour Valley**

**Release Date: 23rd April 2015**

**120 school children learn about wildlife at Givaudan’s Great Stour Meadow in Ashford**

The Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership ran an education project for Givaudan UK Ltd with all of Willesborough Junior’s Year 4. About 120 children visited Givaudan’s Great Stour Meadow, and over 2 days of sunny weather they were pond dipping, hunting for insects and learning about camouflage and wildlife habitats in general.

The children were hugely enthusiastic about everything they discovered and learnt, and hopefully they will retain a respect and appreciation for the environment and the creatures that live in it for many years to come.

Since 2000, the Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership has been working with Givaudan UK Limited, creating the Great Stour Meadow. Named after the river along its edge, it contains wildflower meadow, different types of native hedges, trees, ponds, barn owl boxes and many other wildlife habitats. Although the site is private, the company is keen for the meadow to be used for educational purposes, and hopes this connection with Willesborough Juniors will see the visit become an annual event.

The KSCP are one of nine countryside management partnerships in Kent playing a vital role in the conservation and enhancement of the Kent countryside and coast. [www.kentcountryside.org.uk](http://www.kentcountryside.org.uk/)

Ends

Attachments Bug Identification picture (L to R): Harvey Rudd and Lewis Kearney

Pond dipping (L to R):  Storm Hickmott-Willems, Jessica Smith, Louie Hatcher,

Courtney Mills, Mrs Brown, Luke Whittingham, Tayden McHugh and Teddy Ryall

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